

Florida

1959-60 HUNTING SEASON
DATES AND REGULATIONS

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •

WILDLIFE

OCTOBER, 1959

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS



FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S

Fishing Citation

"for that BIG ONE that DIDN'T get away"

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly, spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

Application for a Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation must be made within 10 days of the date fish was caught. Application must be made on the prescribed form as shown on this page. (Requests for additional forms should be addressed to: Florida Wildlife, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.)

Citation, showing recorded data of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Florida Wildlife Fishing Citations are available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the following fresh-water game fish of the prescribed size requirements:

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

_____ 8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

_____ 4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

_____ 1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

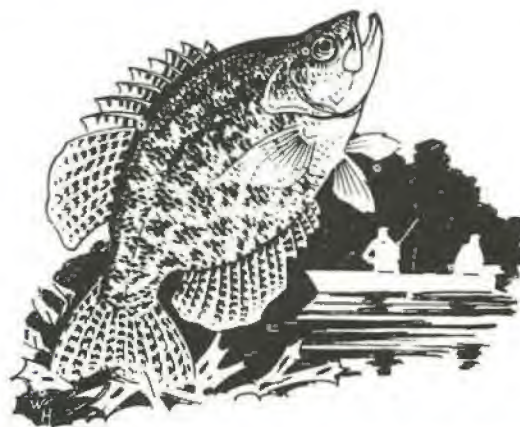
_____ 2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

_____ 2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

_____ 1 pound or larger



CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE _____ Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name _____ Address _____

Species of Fish _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle, Bait Used _____

Where Caught _____ Date _____

Catch Witnessed by _____

Registered, Weighed by _____ at _____

(Signature of Applicant)

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game and Fish

BILL HANSEN, Editor

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"CONSERVATION IN THE SCHOOLS"
is the nation-wide program subject of the National Wildlife Federation for 1959.

In commenting on the importance of the subject, Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation described conservation as a philosophy—"an approach to life".

"Only in the last few years has the general public begun to become aware of the need for abandoning a policy of lavish wastefulness of soil, water, woods and wildlife," he said.

Other excerpts from Wilber's statement are as follows:

"How can the philosophy of an entire populace be changed? The most effective means is by teaching conservation in the schools. Young people properly indoctrinated carry the conservation principles into their adult life.

"In turn, many educators in teacher-training colleges first must be 'converted' and sold on the importance of resource conservation. Florida is indeed fortunate in that the Governor has appointed a state-wide committee for education concerning conservation of natural assets and the chairman of this committee is Dr. Henry Becker, head of the department of geography, Florida State University.

"... As civilization continues to encroach upon this last natural frontier of the United States, let us educate our youth to realize what their losses can be and make them conscious of life as it must be lived today in areas where foresight and understanding, applicable to that portion of life not directly concerned with livelihood has been forgotten."

Federation Notes

By CHARLES WATERMAN

The Youth Act

Conservationists are showing great interest in the "Youth Conservation Act" of 1959, now going the rounds in Congress.

The proposed act would establish a Youth Conservation Corps for young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. These enrollees would be paid at the rate of about \$60 per month as a base with pay raises in cases of assigned responsibilities of special skills.

Members of Congress and leading conservation authorities have repeatedly pointed to the Civilian Conservation Corps, organized in 1933, as an example of what such an organization could accomplish. That group, which operated for nine years before the outbreak of World War II, left a "good taste" and did a lot of good both for the national resources and for the members, according to proponents of the new bill.

It has been proposed that the total enrollment of the corps should be 50,000 for the first year and that the Department of Labor have charge of the project with an advisory committee and a salaried director to be appointed by the President.

Employment has always been a problem in the age group to be

served by the corps. As the armed forces reduce their demands, the problems of idleness, especially in metropolitan areas, have fostered juvenile delinquency and a rapidly growing population points to still greater difficulty in the future.

One point of disagreement about the proposed act is concerned with the educational program to be carried out along with the work. It was felt by many that no educational program should be mandatory but that members of the corps would be given opportunity to increase their academic knowledge if they desired. This was a result of experience gained in the CCC program of twenty years ago.

As to the work to be done by the new corps, the Assistant Chief of the Forest Service pinpointed the following projects which could be performed substantially by YCC enrollees. The total cost would be about \$109,000,000 annually for these tasks:

Reforestation and stand improvement, recreation maintenance and cleanup, construction of picnic sites, revegetation, building of fences, range improvement maintenance, watershed rehabilitation, land utilization, projects, wildlife habitat management, forest fire protection, insect and disease control.

Where services of the YCC are desired by the various states, the financing of state projects could be handled on a 50-50 basis with the federal government providing half the funds.

Officers of the Florida Wildlife Federation believe that the YCC will be established although there may be some changes in the act as it stood at the time of this writing. ●

THE COVER

Fox hunting has long been a traditional sport where outdoorsmen gather, the world over, and Florida is no exception. Here in the Sunshine State, it is the Grey Fox that commands attention of the cry 'To The Hounds', but the fox actually plays second fiddle when the Florida Fox Hunters Association (see page 12) gather late in October, offering Hounds from over the country a chance at the Blue Ribbon awards for their performance in the field and 'on the bench'.

The Cover from a Painting by Wallace Hughes

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

By FRED STURGES



FLORIDA IS AN EXPERIENCE in "just living and enjoying life" for which there is no equal. Florida and the little town of Stuart, which is located on the lower east coast, just thirty miles north of West Palm Beach, will to me and my family always be our "second hometown." There is no adequate way to describe living in this great State . . . its informality, scenic beauty, historical atmosphere, and unlimited outdoor recreational opportunities.

There is so much to see and do. It is not until you are confronted with the fact that within the near future that you will be moving your family hundreds of miles away, that you think of the many trips and things which you wished you had either taken the time or had the opportunity to do and enjoy. And so, I take this opportunity to reflect for the benefit of those too busy to find the occasional week-end to enjoy Florida, or those fortunate to have both time and good sense to take advantage of this State's great outdoors such as some of its beautiful, remote beaches, jungle-like rivers, cypress swamps, and evergreen forest, yet blind and un-informed to the ever present and continuous threat to this God-given, priceless heritage of ours, our children, and generations forever.

Whatever it is that you are looking for, the odds are that here in Florida, it is just outside your door, whether it is sailing, water skiing, cruising the inland canals and waterways in search of adventure, trolling the Gulf Stream for Sails and numerous other big game fish, or fishing for the world famous Florida Black Bass in such "hot spots" as Lake Okeechobee, the beautiful St. Johns River, or any one of Florida's 30,000 named lakes. If hunting is your favorite sport, then you've got it all right here in the palm of your hand . . . deer, turkey, wild hog, bear, coon, quail, dove, fox,

marsh hens, and all kinds of waterfowl.

For the naturalists and bird-watchers, Florida is indeed a paradise. There are the many rookeries, principally in the Keys and the Everglades National Park, and several of our magnificent State Parks, where the Wood Ibis, Brown Pelican, Egrets, Herons, Terns, and the Roseate Spoonbill can be observed and studied.

I don't know how this all sounds to you, but having done most of these things which I have described, and writing about it, it sounds like a page out of the past. Like everyone else, unfortunately, I spend far too little time counting my blessings. Instead, far too many of us, and I include myself, try to find something of importance to us *personally*, but actually of relative unimportance, to disagree with and bicker about, losing sight of the really important issues.

In the past several years here in Florida, the dredging and filling of our estuaries, indiscriminate land reclamation projects, irresponsible drainage creating problems of fresh and salt and water intrusions, industrial and municipal pollution, and other instances of natural resource abuse, all at the expense and sacrifice of millions, for the benefit of a few fast buck artists, are causing conservation and the forces for sound resource management and use to continuously retreat, and in many instances, in utter defeat.

These fast buck forces of commercialism at all costs, are closing in on us from all sides. However, this is not the real threat. Except for a few heart and soul dedicated conservationists, which can literally be counted on two hands . . . we

Fred Sturges recently resigned as State Coordinator of Florida Sportsmen and Conservation Clubs with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to accept the position of Director of Field Activities for the Izaak Walton League of America. He has long been active in Conservation Programs on the national level, — presently National Conservation Chairman of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, — and has been the recipient of many awards including the Nash Conservation Award for 1957.

point the finger of guilt and shame at these identified selfish, commercial manipulators and anti-conservation interests, simply because we are not honest enough nor have sufficient courage to look into the mirror of stark reality, and therein see and recognize that we are our own worst enemy and alone to blame for the conservation reverses which we have and are now experiencing. Contributing to this serious, present condition is the fact that we and the apathetic atmosphere in which we live, tend us to meet our daily responsibilities, oblivious to our duty to express ourselves and speak out in opposition to the continued and generally sanctioned misuse and abuse of Florida's natural resources for the financial prosperity of but a few.

To answer these questions, we must in turn ask ourselves some very serious questions. *WHY* is it that sportsmen and conservationists are not by and large, willing to band together, thereby presenting a solid front-line rank in defense of those principles advocating management and use of Florida's natural resources for the maximum benefit of the majority of the people? *WHY* is it more important for all of the various conservation organizations, in

(Continued on Page 38)



ONE OF OUR NATIONAL publications runs a monthly column entitled, "Why Don't They?" It's devoted to a list of items nonexistent but desirable. These are usually in the realm of house hold appliances. I'll bet any sports fisherman could make up such a list of needed tackle and boat gadgets as would make his fellow anglers drool with envy.

In fact, just small improvements on tools we already use would make a very respectable list. First on my list would be a longer nose on standard fisherman's pliers. I've tried all kinds of long-nosed pliers but never found one that was really satisfactory in fishing. They rust, won't cut clean, twist out of shape, or otherwise malfunction.

I always go back to my fisherman's pliers that I wear in a leather holster on my belt. These little pliers are wonderful. They have a viselike grip, cut clean, seldom rust, and are strong as a bull. There is just one thing wrong with them. The nose is three-quarters of an inch too short. It just won't reach into a fish's mouth far enough to retrieve an imbedded hook. Some day, I'm going to form a company to make such an improved fisherman's pliers just as a service to sportsmen in general.

Another beef I've got is about stainless steel. I have had long, involved arguments with engineers about the various alloys that can legally bear the stainless steel label. So far as I am concerned, all these explanations fall on deaf ears. I think any item sold as "stainless steel" should be just that. If it rusts, it's not stainless steel in my book and should not be so labeled.

Please understand me about this—I am aware that corrosion, electro-

By **CHUCK SCHILLING**

lysis, chemical and acid damage can be expected on any metal used in Florida's salt water. Particularly is this so if little or no protective care is given. I am not now speaking about these various metal reactions—I am talking about rust.

Every manufacturer who competes in the American market can expect his product to be sold or used in Florida. If he slaps a "stainless steel" label on his item, then it should not rust in Florida water, salt or fresh. The American public expects "stainless steel" not to rust—me, too. All the technical gobbledygook in the book couldn't convince me otherwise.

This stainless steel problem was a pain in the neck to me for years as it applied to pocket and fishing knives. As many of you readers know, a pocketknife for Florida sportsmen that will rust is but little better than no knife at all. I bought dozens of so-called stainless steel knives, all of which had one of two defects. Most of these knives, while stainless in the blades, would have cases, pins, or springs made of common steel. This, of course, soon made the whole knife useless. The few completely stainless knives I found had blades so soft they wouldn't hold an edge long enough to sharpen a pencil. This, I was told, is the characteristic of stainless steel, the copper and nickel in the alloy making it too soft for cutting purposes.



Not so. A few years back, I bought a small, all metal pocketknife from Ellis Fernandez at his Sports Shop in Jacksonville. Fernandez imports these knives from West Germany but, unlike a lot of imports, this one is not inexpensive. They are completely stainless steel. In all the years I've used it in both fresh water and salt, I've never had so much as a speck of rust or corrosion appear. What's more, the edge-holding quality of this knife's blade is excellent. It satisfies even me, and I am a nut on the subject.

Another stainless steel knife I feel will fill a long need is being offered by Outdoor Sports Products, Box 35, Vanderveer Station, Brooklyn, 10, N. Y. It sports a \$2.98 price tag. I've been using one of these as a fish knife and find it superior to anything I have yet found. This "Universal" Double-Cut Knife is 12 inches over-all, which gives it the necessary blade length for filleting thick bodied fish. The blade is thin and flexible, both qualities necessary in a good fish knife.

The trouble with most filleting knives is in this flexible blade. It usually does not have the necessary heft to cut thru large back and rib bones. In the Universal Knife, this problem is cleverly solved by a double-edged blade. The regular cutting edge of this blade is cut in



The new, all-purpose Universal Knife makes cleaning and filleting fish an easy chore.

a series of diamond teeth that forms a wavy edge. This edge cuts thru bones, tough skin, and scales just like magic and holds its sharpness long after other knives have reached the "too dull to use" stage. The other edge of this Universal Knife is a series of saw teeth designed for cutting soft material such as bread, sausage, cheese, etc. I use it as a hacksaw on bones.

For years, I treasured a stainless steel slicing knife I carried in a fitted place in the lid of my tackle box. This spot is now filled with the new Universal Knife, and I really don't see how I ever got along without it.

There is another item I'd like to see on the market. I have oarlock trouble. I'm aware some really "salty" people insist that the gadget that holds an oar in place for rowing is a "rowlock." Perhaps so. I hope my salty readers won't be confused if I continue to use a term that marks me for a landlubber (I don't wear a white, yachting cap, either).

My oarlock troubles stem from the noise they usually make. Nothing is more shattering to my peace of mind than to have squeaks, squeals, groans, and rattles from the oarlocks accompanying what I like to think is a "quiet approach." I do all the usual things to avoid this problem. I keep the pins oiled and greased, and this helps. The grease invariably drips down on the inside of the boat to further rock my equanimity. I have fitted the pins with leather washers, so I avoid a metal-to-metal contact at the point of greatest wear. I do everything else I can think of to avoid this noise, and yet it usually develops at exactly the wrong time.

I wish someone would manufacture sets of nylon or Zytel oarlocks. This would surely solve the noise problem, and long wearing nylon would need little if any lubrication. This should not be too hard to accomplish, considering all the other products, including guns, now being manufactured in the plastics industry.



Here is the casting deck on my own fishing boat. Why not a bow design that would convert the usual bow deck into such a platform?

Convertibles

Here is a suggestion I'm going to give for free to small boat manufacturers, who have already embraced the convertible idea. We have both canvas and hard tops that convert open boats into cabin cruisers. We have half-cabin boats that convert to bugproof overnights. Why not go a step farther and build a fishing hull whose forward deck and windshield convert to a casting platform?

Let's take a look at the bow design of the average, outboard, fishing boat. Traditionally, the bow is flared to achieve dryness in running. The bow deck is nicely rounded to shed water and is backed up by a low windshield that acts as protection to the boat's operator and doubles as a deck combing to keep solid water, coming over the bow in a rough sea, from entering the hull and swamping the boat. All this is good and desirable in a boat designed for safety and comfort.

This same traditional design has some obvious defects so far as most sports fishermen are concerned. In most boats under 16 feet on the center line, the biggest problem in fishing is to put as much distance as possible between the casters aboard. With two men in the average boat, usable space available be-

tween windshield and motor well is pitifully, even ridiculously, small. Working in such close quarters, two men are usually a constant threat to each other. If three people fish from such a boat, the problem of casting and fishing room really becomes acute.

These crowded conditions are particularly frustrating, considering the beautiful, unusable expanse of that nicely rounded front deck. Stand on it?—never—it was made to shed water, and it would shed a fisherman almost as quickly. Of course you can tear it out and install a casting deck without windshield, but this, too, is a poor choice, involving the loss of cruising comfort and actual safety. Why not combine the advantages of both?

Why not, indeed? Surely small boat designers could design a convertible front deck and plexiglas windshield that would shed water and give protection in the usual manner while, at the same time, being capable of conversion to safe, flat, casting platform. What a boon this would be to the sports fisherman. The extra four feet or so of usable, uncluttered, fishing room thus produced would be many, many time more valuable than all the un-

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WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL

THE BEST PART ABOUT writing a column like this is the access one has to the many books, periodicals, pamphlets, magazines and other informative literature that come across the writers desk. I like receiving them and only wish I had enough hours in the day to read every word published. That, of course, is impossible and so I do what is next best. I try to scan and skip read my way through, taking the essence and mentally digesting what I can.

Every once in a while I have a piece of prose or poetry that appears on my desk and I cut it out and tack it on the bulletin board in our office.

There are two poems I'd like very much to present here for you sportsmen-conservationists. The first is especially for parents.

A Little Fellow Follows Me

A careful man I ought to be,
A little fellow follows me.
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self-same way.
I cannot once escape his eyes.
Whate'er he sees me do he tries.
Like me he says he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.
He thinks that I am good and fine.
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see,
That little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go
Thru summer's sun and winter's snow,
I am building for the years to be
In that little chap who follows me.

—Wildlife Review

There is something about the poem that makes you think and it stays with you. The other poem is called "The Despoilers" and is packed full of truth. Here it is:

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

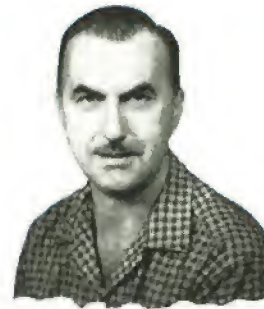
The Despoilers

Then,
I stood on the brow of a hill and
gazed
On a pastoral painting in which
cattle grazed.
And little creeks chuckled and
rhythmically rushed
Down hills and through valleys
that were emerald brushed.

I stood in a meadow where lush
and green
Slender grasses grew tall. I could
see in between
The brown lift of earth and the
blue lilt of sky
Trees were growing majestically
straight and high.
I stood by a lake of aquamarine.
In its crystal the flashes of fish
could be seen
Like rich gems which glitter and
gleam
as they poured
From a cask of rare treasure a
pirate had stored.

Now,
I stand on the hill. The painting
is scarred
Where a wide brush of charcoal
has blackened and marred.
Dead fingers of brush writhe and
scream silently
That I am the despoiler—and oth-
ers like me.

I polluted the waters. I razed fields
with greed.
And I took from the sweet earth
much more than my need.
So I quail and I tremble in fear
of the scorn



Of those robbed of their birthright
before they were born.

—Rodello Hunter

And there you are with something to think about now and in the future. Hope you like them and perhaps you can tack your copy on your bulletin board for a daily reminder.

Writing about bulletin boards reminds me about our board out at our summer camp this past encampment. We encourage all of our staff and campers to contribute anything worthwhile to the board. The last few weeks, however, were completely taken over by the contest we conducted this summer. It was a state-wide contest to name the two captive cub bears at camp. Both of them are orphans and we just couldn't go on without officially naming them. The contest ran about ten days and was open to all those between their eighth and sixteenth birthdays. The contestant could send in as many names as he deemed necessary. Judges for the contest were Mr. A. D. Aldrich, director; Dr. C. E. Frye, Assistant Director; and Mr. R. A. Dahne, Chief Information and Education. All of them are from the Game Commission. Many, many entries were sent in. Some of them from boys at camp, some of them from boys who had been to camp and others from those who had heard about these two comic bears.

Closing date for the contest was midnight of August 2, 1959. The winner was announced one week later. The boy's name—Jeffrey Robert

Johnson, 125 14th Street, Belleaire Beach, Florida. We understand that young Jeffrey attended camp. It was perhaps being on the scene of action that he was inspired to name them FLIP AND FLOP. Yup! That's their names now. Pictures were taken by Jim Reed with the Information and Education Division of the Game Commission and by Paul Ferguson, Ocala agent for the Orlando Sentinel.

The bears have become quite the celebrities. They have appeared on WLOF-TV, WUFT-TV (Educational). Their pictures have appeared on WDBO-TV, WJXT-TV and others.

Our youngsters this summer had frolicking fun.

Don't forget too, that our Animal Fun Compound had turtles, alligators (small), raccoons, opossums and their babies, owls, hawks, snakes, squirrels, and many others.

Forgot to mention that young Jeffrey receives one week of camp next summer as our guest. How about that Jeffrey?

The Scouting for Conservation Program has now completed its sec-

ond year and during that time has produced twenty scouts or explorers with the rank of Ranger, one with the rank of Chief Ranger. NOW comes the big one. The highest rank has been attained by an explorer scout of Post 228, Anthony, Florida. His name is Walter Yongue III, age seventeen. He is the first scout in Florida to receive the award. Walter has completed all the necessary merit badges plus the projects listed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The program is fully approved by the National and Regional Boy Scout Headquarters.

There is only one other program like it in the country, Oklahoma. This too is sponsored by the Game and Fish Commission in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America and the State Councils.

Walter was also the first to achieve the rank of Chief Ranger. He will have his certificate, declaring his rank presented by the Governor of Florida, LeRoy Collins. Plans are in the making for this official cere-

mony, a big one in Conservation. Congratulations from all of us in the Game Commission to you, Walter Yongue III. and double that for your Mother and Dad. And while we are at it let's not forget Bob Summers, Executive Field Director for the Marion District of the North Florida Council.

So, let's get with it fellows. Perhaps there is a future Florida Wildlife Conservationist in your troop or post.

The summer that is now a part of the past had so many variable and interesting things produced at camp. To start with we had our Girl Scouts return for their third annual Camp Wildlife and again with Mrs. G. T. Costello as director. We understand that Mrs. Costello had a very successful camp. Decentralized camping was introduced.

Add to that the visiting of Jr. Garden club members, both boys and girls, to our Junior Nature Camp which was the second week of our two weeks for girls and any of the other weeks selected by the boys. Officials were making a trial run on this. We are very happy to announce that it was to every one's liking.

Successful planning for this camp can be credited to Mrs. Faye Mayes, president of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; Mrs. Robert Hess, state chairman for Junior Garden Clubs and to Mrs. W. S. Miller, District Conservation Chairman from Bartow.

My very sincere appreciation is extended to these ladies and to all those who made the experiment a permanent thing.

We also had a trial operation for handicapped children. During the two weeks for boys, eight young boy campers were brought in by the Florida Crippled Children's Society.

Miss Mary Siragusa, RPT, a consultant in Special Services, worked very closely with us. Frank Stupka, Physical Therapist from Munroe Memorial Hospital, Ocala, was also on hand to give us an assist. We hope too that this program will show

(Continued on Page 39)

HELP MAINTAIN AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES - SO THAT YOU, YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR NEIGHBORS WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO USE AND ENJOY THE FLORIDA OUTDOORS

STUDY, ENJOY AND PROTECT WILDLIFE

EGRET

JOIN YOUR LOCAL SPORTSMEN'S CLUB - GARDEN CLUB - AUDUBON SOCIETY OR CONSERVATION CLUB

PARTICIPATE IN THE NRA HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM

HELP STAMP OUT ILLEGAL GAME AND FISH LAW VIOLATIONS

TAKE A BOY OR GIRL FISHING, HUNTING OR CAMPING

HELP ELIMINATE POLLUTION AND SPOILAGE OF FLORIDA'S BEAUTIFUL LAKES, RIVERS AND SPRINGS

— FLORIDA GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



ANYONE WHO REGULARLY writes a sports' column can expect to be bombarded with questions and opinions via letters from readers. Such communications usually can be separated into distinct categories, and be so handled.

But every now and then some reader writes in asking a technical question that involves more than letter-length reply. Such a question is contained in a letter from a reader up Jacksonville-way. He writes:

"I read your MUZZLE FLASHES column every month and enjoy it very much. Many times your tips have resulted in improvement of my marksmanship and more enjoyment of shooting.

"I have just bought a new Remington Model 760, .30-06 caliber, slide-action rifle and fitted it with one of the sighting combinations you recommended. I like it very much. Now, I'd like to know how long my new gun will last?"

A question like that makes this Gun Editor repeatedly push back in his desk chair and scratch his head in perplexity as to just how it should be answered. Actually, it is like calling on him to assume the role of seer and accurately prophesy the future . . . But since the question has been asked in obvious seriousness, it will be so answered.

To paraphrase the question, the Jacksonville reader merely wishes to know how tough his new rifle really is and how much practical use he can expect from it. So considered, the question becomes one of general reader interest.

First of all, very few guns possessed by sportsmen ever wear out from shooting. They rust away, suffer breakage of stocks, get dented

By **EDMUND McLAURIN**

or bent, experience occasional breakdown of component parts, develop headspace, may function erratically, explode from firing of faulty ammunition or overloads and otherwise suffer mishap, but relatively few wear out from use alone!

A quality-made .22 caliber rimfire rifle can be expected to last a long, long time when clean, low velocity, lubricated lead bullets are used exclusively. There are many cases of record where .22 rifles have had an accurate barrel life of as long as 250,000 rounds, although easily-corrected head piece troubles usually develop much earlier.

With high-speed ammunition and plated bullets, wear is apt to affect accuracy somewhere between 50,000 and 75,000 rounds. Also, fast firing

and overheating tend to reduce barrel life.

High-power rifles have a much shorter life. In an otherwise cared for .30-30, accuracy will fall below par after about 10,000 rounds. Accuracy-life of a .30-06 barrel is about 4,500 to 6,000 rounds with standard hunting loads—and can be considered "gone" after you have spent around \$1,000 for ammunition. One bored for the .220 Swift cartridge has an average life less than that—from about 2,000 to 3,000 rounds . . . This is practical hunting accuracy life, not the gilt-edge performance often demanded of a weapon by competitive target shooters . . .

Principal reason for the wearing



You can expect a lifetime of service from a good shotgun, with probability that it will also serve your heirs. It may require tightening up and adjusting periodically, but the average owner will never shoot it enough to wear out the barrel from friction of shot alone.

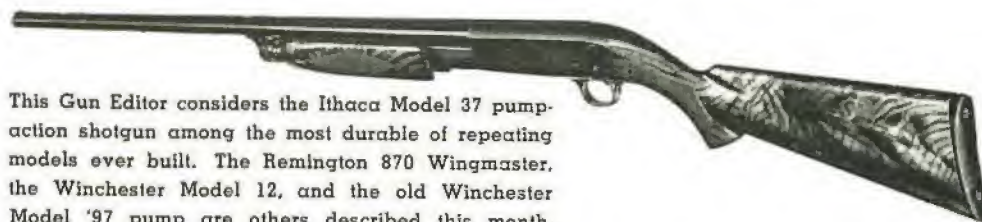
of a gun bore is the hot gas flow developed in the barrel and not the friction of the bullet or shot charge, as commonly believed, although the latter does cause some wear—especially so if bullets or shot charges used are too hard. (For example, substituting steel air rifle shot for lead shot loads will quickly score the inside of a shotgun barrel.)

In rifles, relative sizes of bullet and bore have an effect on powder gas erosion. With continued use, hot gas gradually erodes critical metal at the throat, and the chamber slowly gets longer as the rifling ahead of it is burned. Where bullet diameter is not truly matched to barrel groove diameter, leakage of hot powder gas is sure to be abnormally present and harmful.

Modern revolvers and autoloading pistols can be expected to render accuracy-life of 100,000 rounds when lubricated lead bullets are used exclusively. Use of metal-jacketed bullets, on the other hand, will radically shorten a handgun's life. Likewise, many cheaply made foreign products cannot be relied on to give the long-life performance of American brands of accepted quality.

You can expect to enjoy a lifetime of service from a good shotgun. It may require tightening up and adjusting periodically, but the average owner will never shoot it enough to wear out the barrel from friction of shot alone. Should one live long enough to do just that, replacement of the barrel will make the gun last another generation, to be appreciated by your heirs!

Some of the shotgun models that have been extremely hard to wear out have been the Winchester Model 12 pump, the old Winchester '97 hammer model, the Remington Models 31 and 17, Ithaca Model 37 and Remington 870. There are others, but those named have truly earned good reputations for durability and reliable functioning. In the Winchester Model 12, for instance, recoil ring-wear will eventually cause headspace, but the gun's mechanical design is such that the trouble



This Gun Editor considers the Ithaca Model 37 pump-action shotgun among the most durable of repeating models ever built. The Remington 870 Wingmaster, the Winchester Model 12, and the old Winchester Model '97 pump are others described this month.

can be corrected and the gun made to breech as tightly as ever. Such incorporated features contribute to a long, useful gun-life.

Certain of the formerly marketed gun models, while good, have had certain flaws in their designing or unforeseen field stress points. The now discontinued Winchester 11 autoloading shotgun had the bad habit of cutting shell cases in two at the front of the brass. Cracked wood fore-ends were common among the early Remington, Browning and Savage autoloaders, primarily due to incorrect friction ring adjustments by users. Old Remington Model 17 pump action shotguns and the early Ithaca pumps (patent right successors to the Remington Model 17) would occasionally drop a shell from the bottom ejection port. The Remington Model 10 pump gun, long discontinued, had the weakness of developing shell feeding difficulty once the carrier became the least bit worn. Extraction trouble was a fault of some of the early Marlin pump-action shotguns. Their respective manufacturers became aware of these inherent weaknesses and eventually discontinued or remodeled the trouble-makers.

Also, in the old days, some of the cheaply made, non-standard brand shotguns were given choke by inexpensive crimping of their muzzles, instead of by the more costly, time-consuming barrel boring processes. If some of these old guns are still around, their cheap, crimp-style choke can possibly be ruined by the firing of rifled slugs through their bores. However, the almost pure lead slugs can be shot safely through bored-choke barrels, and through modern selective choke devices. Owners need have no fear of ruining a standard-make shot-

gun, the shotshell loading companies say.

Now for some specific cases of long-lived guns: In 1932, when he was active in international small-bore competition, this Gun Editor purchased a Winchester Model 52, bolt-action, .22 caliber target rifle, through which only selected, low velocity, non-corrosive ammunition has been fired. Today, after a recorded 100,000 shots, the rifle will still shoot a ten-shot group 1x1½ inches over the 100 yard range, from bench rest. One of these days, the rifle will be going back to the factory for a new barrel and general overhaul for the simple reason that its still good accuracy is not what it was in the rifle's youth.

Just recently, a Winchester Model 61 slide-action .22, purchased in 1946, was returned to the factory for re-barreling after a service life of 100,000 shots. But in this instance, the ammunition was never selected. All brands, mixed velocities, dry and lubricated bullets, gritty and nicked bullets and factory fresh were dumped indiscriminately in the rifle's loading port. On many occasions the little .22 was worked so hard and fast in practice sessions that the barrel became too hot to comfortably touch.

The bore of this .22 was seldom cleaned; once in awhile a cleaning patch was pushed through the bore to check the condition of the rifling. Along about 70,000 rounds, the rifle acquired the habit of throwing an occasional "flyer" under fifty yards, but still proved true as one's aim for most shots.

The factory returned the model 61's old barrel with the overhauled rifle. The bore is as shiny as a new dollar, but rifling is very shallow after years of handling hot powder

(Continued on Page 40)

The Music of The Hounds

By HORACE LOFTIN

Bedlam at daybreak
best describes the
early morning action
when the Florida
Fox Hunters Association
hold their
annual field trials



Some 500 Walker and July hounds will be entered in this year's four day session of competitive hunts and bench show.

IT IS 4 A.M., AND LIGHTS begin to penetrate the October pre-dawn darkness. Men move about and the deep voices of many dogs greet their masters. The bustle of activity grows, and before 5:30, a line of hounds numbering some 400 stands beside the highway. At 6 a.m. on the dot, the dogs are cast. They charge across the road and disappear into the piney woods, closely followed by 25 riders mounted on fine horses.

It is only a matter of minutes before a hound gives voice as a trail is struck. Then the whole pack takes up the call, and the woods resounds with their spine-tingling noise. The *music of the hounds* has begun again!

What could please a Florida sportsman more than such a show of champion hounds on a lively hunt? Well, the hounds and the hunt, plus a big fish fry to boot and the congenial company of outdoorsmen from all over the state and elsewhere throughout the southeast. All of this is scheduled for the 33rd Annual Hunt of the Florida Fox Hunters Association, to be held near Apalachicola, October 26 through 29, and **YOU ARE INVITED**. Pres. John Stephens of Quincy says visitors are warmly welcome to all the doin's—including that big free feed!

The Florida Fox Hunters put on the biggest state hunt in the nation each year. This season, some 500 Walker and July hounds will be entered in the four days of competitive hunts and bench show, representing the best in fox hounds from 15 states. Judges will ride to the hounds on horses especially trained for the sport.

Things will begin to happen Sunday, October 25, as the dog owners arrive at the Wilson Beach Cottages at St. Theresa, just east of Apalachicola, where the kennels are located and from which the hunts begin. Later in the day, each dog is assigned a number which is painted on his side to identify him throughout the hunts. Sunday night is a time for talk, as owners and visitors swap dog stories, boast a little and make good-natured jibes at their competitors' pooches.

Monday, October 26, sees the official beginning of the meet with the Bench Show. This is held at Battery Park, Apalachicola, beginning at 1:30. Here's where you'll get your best look at some fine dog flesh. Winners have to be more than "show dogs," however, because all of them are required to take part in the hunts that follow. Dogs that are eliminated in the hunts for any reason lose their bench show awards. The Bench Show is followed by the fish fry, when Hunters, their guests, visitors and most of Apalachicola (practically!) head for the laden tables and accompanying friendliness. To give you an idea of the bountifulness of this spread, last year the contented crowd devoured 300 pounds of mullet and 400 pounds of spuds, not to mention the oysters, salad, grits, hushpuppies and gallons of iced tea.

Hounds eat, too you know; during the four-day meet

The Florida gray fox is a great one for taking to the trees in contrast with the red fox found to the north.

of 1958, some 5,000 pounds of feed were consumed, furnished free of charge by dog food manufacturers.

The serious fun begins Tuesday morning, October 27, with additional hunts on Wednesday and Thursday. Foxes are as thick as spines on a porcupine in the woods around St. Theresa, so the hunt begins right at the highway that runs by the Wilson Beach Cottages, hunt headquarters. The hounds are "cast" at 6 a.m. and are run until 11 a.m.

Following the dogs are 25 judges, mounted on horseback, and any other persons who want to ride to the hounds on their own horses. The Master of the Hunt goes along in a four-wheel-drive Jeep, as do his two assistants. These Jeeps have two-way radio communication, enabling the Master of the Hunt to relay quick instructions to his assistants and from them on to the judges.

The visitors are not left out of the fun, by any means, when the dogs take to the woods. Foxes, with the dogs behind them, cross and recross the highway, where they can be seen by the crowds that line the road. And, of course, the *music of the hounds* is always to be heard. Last year, one sly fox ran for safety right through the alleys and sidewalks of the beach cottages, followed by a huge pack of hounds. They only caught him when he made the mistake of running out on the long pier which projects into the Gulf of Mexico!

For safety's sake, traffic along the highway is slowed down by State Highway Patrolmen. Which brings up



Commission Photo by Jim Reed

the point of the excellent and generous cooperation received by the Fox Hunters from various state and private organizations. For example, the Highway Patrol watches traffic; the Forestry Service and the St. Joe Paper Company (which owns the hunting grounds) work in many ways with the hunters; the Game and Fish Commission flies a plane to search for lost dogs; while the Wilson Beach Cottages furnishes kennels for the dogs and pays a share in the fish fry. In return, the Florida Fox Hunters exhibit the best in good sport and good sportsmanship!



Photo by Nelson Hamilton

The day's bustling activities start early in the morning, and by 5:30 a long line of hounds, and their handlers, are 'at the ready' along the highway.

On the first day's hunt, judges don't begin to score the dogs for performance until the first 15 minutes are up—a warm-up period. But thereafter, each hound is closely watched to see how he conducts himself and is rated accordingly. Hounds are scored by their performance in four classes; hunting, trailing, speed and driving, and endurance.

Hunting is concerned with how diligently the dog seeks a trail. Once a trail is struck, the hound must follow and must give tongue; no hound is scored for thus *trailing* a track if he doesn't "cry it." After a fox is started and the pack is running, judges give points for each dog's performance in *speed and driving*. Scores for endurance are earned by

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Apalachicola Watershed

Lower Chipola and Dead Lakes

THE FAST FLOWING CHIPOLA River slows and spreads to form the strangely beautiful Dead Lakes. In the dark waters, cypress snags and stumps stand as mute remnants of immense wooded tracts covered by rising water.

In the early days this already attractive scene was enhanced by churning river boats making their runs up and down the Chipola.

The Dead Lakes have long received national acclaim for fantastic shellcracker and bluegill catches. Here at times, the once-a-year angler can and does have the same success as the most experienced fisherman. This is during the bedding season which occurs in March, April, and May. When a bed is located, the finder is quickly joined by boats from every direction until there is a teeming mass of fishermen hard at work catching their limit.

After the bedding season, bream catches dwindle, but still proud strings of warmouth, bluegill, and shellcrackers are caught on catalpas, crickets, and earthworms.

Throughout the year bass and pickerel fishing is good with peak catches in the spring and fall. Both live shiners and artificial lures are used with success.

Upon leaving the Dead Lakes, the Chipola again narrows and picks up speed as it moves to join the Apalachicola. This stretch is noted for its channel catfish catches and many residents consider them number one when it comes to good eating fish. Deep holes in the main channel are their favorite haunts. A weighted line baited with worms will usually mean meat on the table. Bream and bass are also in abundance and are found close to shore, around the snags.

In addition to the normal freshwater fish present, the salt water striped bass and Alabama shad provide much sport and enjoyment. Both are taken in the winter and spring. Alabama shad favor artificial lures and shiners while the stripers find it hard to resist small catfish or eels.

Date of Survey: 1955.

Area: 3,600 acres.

Location: Chipola River from State Highway 20 bridge at Clarksville to its junction with Apalachicola River, Calhoun and Gulf Counties, Florida.

Aquatic Vegetation: Water Nymph, Spatterdock, Smartweed, Buttonweed, Water Hyssop, Rush, Burhead, Spikerush, Bladderwort, Cutgrass, Pondweed, Yellow-eyed Grass, St. John's Wort, Water Purslane, Pickerel Weed, and Water Hyacinth.

Bottom Type: Sand, mud, and clay.

Depth: 4-40 feet.

Fluctuation: 4 to 6 feet.

Accessibility and Availability: Excellent.

PART 2

Prepared By Members

of the

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission's

LAKE AND STREAM SURVEY TEAM

A Federal Aid Project

as provided by

THE DINGELL-JOHNSON ACT of 1950

Fishing History: Best known for many years for its shellcracker fishing. Other species are plentiful. Fishing drops off considerably during prolonged low water levels.

Fishing Methods: Cane pole fishing with catalpas, earthworms, and crickets is the most common method of fishing for bream in this area. Casting and live bait fishing is good during some seasons of the year for bass, jacks, crappie, striped bass, and Alabama shad. Fly fishing is fair during the warm months.

Fishing Pressure: 40,000 fishermen days per year.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Common
Spotted Bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>	Occasional
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Abundant
Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Abundant
Redbreast (Willow or River Bream)	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Abundant
Stumpknocker	<i>Lepomis punctatus punctatus</i>	Abundant
Chain Pickerel (Jack)	<i>Esox niger</i>	Common
Redfin Pickerel	<i>Esox americanus</i>	Occasional
Warmouth	<i>Chaenobryttus coronarius</i>	Abundant
Black Crappie (Speckled Perch)	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Occasional
Striped Bass	<i>Roccus saxatilis</i>	Seasonal
Alabama Shad	<i>Alosa alabamae</i>	Seasonal

The complete report on the Apalachicola Watershed and the special charts prepared by the Lake and Stream Survey, are available free of charge through the Fisheries Division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida

Other Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name
Southern Brown Bullhead	<i>Ictalurus nebulosus marmoratus</i>
Yellow Cat	<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>
Channel Cat	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Snail Cat	<i>Ictalurus platycephalus</i>
Spotted Sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Longnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>
Shortnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus sp.</i>
Bowfin (Mudfish)	<i>Amia calva</i>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Threadfin Shad	<i>Dorosoma petenense</i>
Eastern Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>
Striped Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>

Lake Seminole

ALTHOUGH LACKING THE typical Florida aesthetics, Lake Seminole has still become a popular sportsman's playground. Annually many local and out-of-state visitors come here to hunt and fish.

In the fall as the weather starts to cool, flocks of waterfowl can be seen arriving to feed and rest through the winter. This results in some of the best duck shooting in Northwest Florida.

Bank fishing is probably the lake's most popular single asset. Large stretches of shoreline are easy to reach by those who wish to fish from old terra firma.

Whether preferring bank or boat, the fisherman finds a limber cane pole baited with catalpas, earthworms, or crickets the surest way to fill the string with bream and channel catfish.

Wooded areas flooded by impoundment are the best fishing areas. Not only do they offer ideal cover for the fish, but also shade for the fisherman to escape the full force of the summer sun.

In the cooler months, speckled perch enter the picture and are taken on both live shiners and artificial lures. Being essentially a pan fish lake, there is very little bass fishing although some are taken in the spring on shiners and plugs along with the speckled perch.

Date of Survey: 1957.

Area: 37,500 acres (Florida 8,000 acres).



Mixed strings of fresh water game fish are often a common occurrence to sports fishermen along the entire watershed.

Location: Northeastern part of Jackson County, Florida.

Aquatic Vegetation: Since impoundment was so recent, no aquatic vegetation had appeared at time of survey.

Bottom Type: Sand, silt, and mud.

Depth: 6 to 20 feet.

Fluctuation: Slight, probably will not be over one foot.

Accessibility and Availability: Excellent.

Fishing History: At the present time, Lake Seminole appears to be living up to its promise of being an excellent sport fishery.

Fishing Pressure: 34,000 fishermen days per year. This was the pressure up to June 1957. The next year should see a heavy increase.

Fishing Method: Most fish are caught in the wooded areas, bass and crappie on live shiners and bream on worms. Channel catfish are taken throughout the lake by bottom fishing.

Reciprocal Agreement: Limits of the Agreement—The area covered by the agreement is bounded on the west by Florida State Road No. 271, and on the south by Jim Woodruff Dam. The east boundary is a line beginning immediately east of the Chattahoochee Marina and running north-west across the lake to the tip of land at the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers west of Spring Creek. The north boundary is the Florida-Alabama line extending eastward across the Chattahoochee River.

Some Provisions of the Agreement—Fishermen holding a valid fishing license from either Florida or Georgia will be allowed to fish in the specified area.

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Fishermen will be allowed a daily bag limit of 75 game fish, including not more than 15 black bass or 70 bream. Daily bag limit for the area are: Black Bass, including largemouth, smallmouth, Kentucky or spotted, redeye or coosa bass—15; Striped Bass, also called Rockfish, a salt water fish found in the fresh water involved—15; White and Yellow Bass—30 each; Bream, including Bluegill, Redbreast, Rock Bass, and all other bream species—70; White and Black Crappie—40 of each, and Yellow Perch—30; Walleyed Pike 15; and 15 of any species of pickerel. For details of other regulations under this agreement contact the local Wildlife Officer or office of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Names	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Common
Bluegill (Bream)	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Abundant
Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Common to Abundant
Stumpknocker	<i>Lepomis punctatus</i>	Common
Dollar Sunfish	<i>Lepomis marginatus</i>	Common
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cynellus</i>	Occasional
Orange-spotted Sunfish	<i>Lepomis humulis</i>	Rare
Warmouth	<i>Chaenobryttus coronarius</i>	Common to Abundant
Flier	<i>Centrarchus macropterus</i>	Occasional to Common
Black Crappie (Speckled Perch)	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Common to Abundant
Chain Pickerel (Jack)	<i>Esox niger</i>	Occasional to Common
White Bass	<i>Roccus chrysops</i>	Occasional to Common
Striped Bass	<i>Roccus saxatilis</i>	Occasional to Common

Other Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Names
Longnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>
Shortnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus sp.</i>
Bowfin (Mudfish)	<i>Amia calva</i>
Alabama Shad	<i>Alosa alabamiae</i>
Threadfin Shad	<i>Dorosoma petenense vanhyningi</i>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>



Photo by Jim Floyd

Assistant Project Leader, Henry Carpenter, examines specimens in the laboratory. In many instances, only a trained technician can distinguish the differences between two seemingly identical species of fish.

Spotted Sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas bosci</i>
Channel Catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Brown Bullhead (Speckled Catfish)	<i>Ictalurus nebulosus marmoratus</i>
Yellow Catfish	<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>

Merritt's Mill Pond

THIS SPRING FED IMPOUNDMENT has become one of the favorite spots for local, South Alabama, and Georgia fishermen. Its crystal waters quickly reveal an abundance of aquatic life. Schools of bluegills and shellcrackers seem to fill the lake as they move from place to place. This abundance has its disadvantages as well as advantages. While offering a fairly easy limit of bream on worms and catpals, only a few reach the size normally obtained in other waters. Many of the large bluegills and shellcrackers are taken by trolling deep with artificial

flies. Bass fishing, which has been improving over the past few years, seemed to reach its highest peak recently. Using live shiners and suckers around the logs and stumps produces many limit strings, with some individuals weighing better than 10 pounds being reported.

Recently, the Game Commission has undertaken the responsibility of managing this impoundment. It is hoped that the pan fish will soon show a marked increase in size.

Date of Survey: 1956.

Area: 340 Acres.

Location: Central part of Jackson County, Florida, about 2½ miles east of Marianna.

Aquatic Vegetation: Pondweed; Chara; Sawgrass; *Cladium* sp.; Cypress Trees; *Taxodium* sp.; Algae (Filamentous).

Bottom Type: Sand and mud.

Average Depth: Six feet.

Fluctuation: Fluctuation normally is between 6 to 12 inches.

Accessibility and Availability: Fishing camps are located along the entire length of the pond. A public park is situated at the head of the pond (Blue Spring).

Fishing History: While the number of fishes caught per hour by fishermen remain high, the small size of the bluegills taken has given rise to considerable complaints. The survey team found definite signs of overpopulation of bluebills in Merritt's Mill Pond. The cause of this is due, no doubt, to the heavy growth of submerged vegetation occurring in the pond the last few years and indiscriminate stocking. The heavy vegetative growth provides cover for the bluegills and does not allow predatory fishes to keep their numbers in check.

Fishing Methods: Bream and shellcrackers are usually caught while fishing with a cane pole, a

long line, a small float and lead, and worms or crickets. Live bait is best for bass, but many are caught on spinning and casting lures.

Estimated Fishing Pressure: 59,000 fishermen days per year.

Recommendations: At the request of local residents, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has recently taken Merritt's Mill Pond under management. The Commission hopes to return the fish population to a balanced condition by the use of drawdown and other fish management tools.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Common to Abundant
Bluegill (Bream)	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Extremely Abundant
Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Common to Abundant
Stumpknocker	<i>Lepomis punctatus</i>	Common
Redbreast (Willow Bream)	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Common
Warmouth	<i>Chaenobryttus coronarius</i>	Common to Abundant
Chain Pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>	Common
Redfin Pickerel	<i>Esox americanus</i>	Common

Other Fishes

Yellow Cat	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>
Southern Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
(Speckled Cat)	<i>mormaratus</i>
Eastern Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas boscii</i>
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>

Ocheese Pond

OCHEESE POND, ONE OF THE LARGER natural bodies of water in Northwest Florida, is in reality a large swamp with moss-laden cypress trees covering most of the water area. It should appeal to all sports fishermen who prefer seeking their "lunker" bass in cool, tree-shaded waters.

This is where anglers from South Alabama, South Georgia, and local areas come with cane poles to catch large strings of bluegill and warmouth. Of all the fishermen visiting the pond throughout the year, only a small percentage try to outsmart the old largemouth. This is no indication of the bass present, however, for bass anglers are usually well rewarded.

Date of Survey: 1957.

Area: 2,280 acres.

Location: Approximately 2½ miles east southeast of Sneads in Jackson County, Florida.

Aquatic Vegetation: Water-pepper, water hyssop, sedge, spikerush, st. john's wort, mock bishop's weed, water purslane, pondweed, yellow-eye grass, butter-weed and bog-moss.

Bottom Type: Sand and mud.

Accessibility and Availability: Good.

Average Depth: Six feet.

Fluctuation: Extreme fluctuation depending upon
(Continued on Next Page)



Commission photos by Jim Floyd

(Continued from Preceding Page)

subsurface water table and local precipitation.

Fishing History: Excellent pan fish.

Fishing Method: Panfish are taken on crickets and worms. Best fishing generally occurs when bream beds are located during the warm months. Bass are usually caught among the cypress trees casting, or with shiners. Both bass and bream fishing rate good year 'round.

Lake Wimico

ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY BOAT, this isolated lake defies development which has destroyed many of Florida's fishing waters. Entering from one of the watery passages, the visitor is struck by a feeling of isolation. The only hint of man's tampering is the buoys marking the intracoastal waterway channel passing through the lake.

Fishing this brackish, tide controlled area is a fascinating experience for here fresh and saltwater species intermix. Ladyfish, channel bass, speckled perch, shellcracker, and largemouth bass are all commonly caught.

The hardy shellcrackers are well suited for this situation and can be found in abundance among rush growths along the shore.

Wimico's bass fishermen discovered some time ago that most bass catches were made on live shrimp. These shrimp are very common in the lake and appear to be the largemouth's chief food.

Date of Survey: 1955.

Area: 3,968 acres.

Location: Southern part of Gulf County.

Aquatic Vegetation: Spike rush, bulrush.

Bottom Type: Sand and mud.

Fluctuation Characteristics: Tidal effects to the ex-

A typical cypress pond, common throughout the southern low-lands. Merrit Mill Pond, Ocheese Pond, and the Dead Lakes are examples along the Apalachicola Watershed.

Recommendations: To promote more bass fishing on the lake.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Abundant
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Abundant
Warmouth	<i>Chaenobryttus coronarius</i>	Abundant
Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Rare

Other Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name
Southern Brown Bullhead (Speckled Cat)	<i>Ictalurus nebulosus</i>
Yellow Cat	<i>Ictalurus natalis</i>
Eastern Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>
Spotted Sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas bosci</i>

tent of a 12 inch rise or fall are noticeable.

Average Depth: 5 feet.

Accessibility and Availability: Lake Wimico can be reached only by boat.

Estimated Fishing Pressure: 12,000 fishermen days per year.

Fishing History: Fishing has continued to be good. Catches of largemouth bass appears to have been increasing the past three or four years.

Fishing Methods: Live shrimp is usually best for catching largemouth bass. Trolling or casting with artificial bait is good for bass and speckled trout at times. Most bream are taken on a cane pole with worms or crickets.

Recommendations: It is recommended that public access areas be established as near the lake as possible.

Game Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name	Relative Abundance
Northern Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides salmoides</i>	Common to Abundant

Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Common
Bluegill (bream)	<i>Lepomis macrochirus purpurescens</i>	Common to Abundant
Stumpknocker	<i>Lepomis punctatus punctatus</i>	Common

Other Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name
Shortnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus</i> sp.
Bowfin (Mudfish)	<i>Amia calva</i>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>
Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i>
Channel Catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
White Catfish	<i>Ictalurus catus</i>
Brown Bullhead (Speckled Cat)	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus mormaratus</i>
Striped Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Flounder	<i>Paralichthys</i> sp.
Needlefish	<i>Strongylura</i> sp.
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>



Keith Byrd performs scale counts of small fish. Precise identification is often made from the definite scale patterns of various species which, along with other data, helps classify the fish into separate families, species, and sub-species.

Bull Shark	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>
Silver Perch	<i>Bairdella chrysura</i>
Pinfish	<i>Logadon rhomboides</i>

Discussion

THE LAKES AND STREAMS Survey Project began work on the Apalachicola River Watershed during the winter of 1954 and completed field work in the summer of 1957. Because of the shortage of trained personnel, the survey was discontinued for considerable time during this period to allow work on other critical areas throughout the state. Actual time spent on field work on the watershed was about a year and a half.

The lapse in time created some disadvantages in preparing this report, especially since some of the lakes and streams were surveyed during low water levels and others during high levels.

During the drought, fishing as a matter of course, was poor. This led many people throughout the watershed to believe that the fish populations had been fished out. The request for restocking and closed seasons became general. Commission personnel explained that restocking was not only unnecessary but in many cases actually was dangerous in upsetting the balance between the existing fish populations. Quite possibly the resulting overpopulation of bluegills in Merritt's Mill Pond is a result of indiscriminate stocking. Many experiments have been made on closed seasons in other southern states to determine if, during spawning time, certain areas should be closed to fishing. None have found any sound basis for closed seasons on warm water species. Actually this is closing

fishing when it is at its best. The reproduction potential of fishes, especially the warm water fishes of Florida, is tremendous.

Fortunately, it appears now that this attitude is changing for the better throughout this state. Restocking is usually an unnecessary and expensive procedure. It should be stated that restocking is generally necessary only when new ponds are created, dry ponds have been refilled, lakes have been chemically treated, and after a thorough biological investigation is made and it is found that adding certain species of fish might bring the body of water back to a more desirable balance.

In most cases when water is plentiful, fishing is at its best. This has been proven during past few years. Now that drought conditions no longer exist good catches of fish are being made throughout this watershed.

A general observation throughout the entire watershed is the need for public access points. This will be remedied to some extent by the Fish Restoration Act passed by the 1957 session of the Florida Legislature. One provision in this act allows public boat launching ramps to be built by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in areas where none exist. This should help to alleviate the matter to some extent, but each county can take steps to construct and maintain public landings of their own. ●



Bucks and Bows

By EDMUND McLAURIN

The early bowhunting seasons at the Ocala National Forest and Eglin Air Force Base are attracting more and more bow hunters each year.

This Fall more Florida archers are expected to be hunting deer than ever before

TIME BEING FAST-FLEETING in the life of man, it is now almost a decade since a statewide representation of Florida's more enthusiastic archers gathered in a designated section of the Ocala National Forest for the Game Commission's first experimental big-game bow-hunt, ahead of the regular gun hunting season.

No deer were downed that year, although several bowmen got shots. But everyone who participated professed to having had a lot of fun hunting à la Robin Hood, and a few lucky individuals also checked-out lesser game kills to show for their effort. All vowed they would try again if given another chance.

By popular demand, the early bowhunting season was repeated, with both the Ocala National Forest and sections of Eglin Field being declared open hunting areas for an increased number of hunters taking out the required archery permits.

Then W. T. McDaniel, of Eustis, killed a buck at Ocala, on Opening Day of the 1953 bowhunting season, to prove that Florida bowmen could accomplish what Wisconsin archers have been doing annually since 1934.

Hundreds of Florida bowmen have since tried to duplicate McDaniel's feat. Some have succeeded.

In a special nine day hunt held in the Inverness area last year, just before the area's notoriously short gun hunting season, archers bagged 19 bucks. Seventeen more were taken by bowmen who chose to hunt the Eglin Field area during its own open season, and a few bucks were garnered from the Ocala National Forest to swell Florida's bowhunting deer-kill harvest figure to a new annual record.



When purchasing a bow, be sure to select one that pulls within your margin of comfort and control. As little as five pounds excess pull can be a handicap.

But the growing legion of hunters are fast finding it is more difficult to stalk and kill a deer with a bow and arrow than first thought. True, a fortunate few among the hundreds of hunters afield have made a lucky kill the first time out, but for most archers — including the experts — bagging a buck with a bow has not been easy!

In the aggregate, participants are fast learning there is no archery tackle available that can compensate for the right combination of skillful stalk-

ing ability, a good measure of luck and good marksmanship. . . .

An example both amusing and serious is the case of the young Florida hunter and wife who began their bowhunting with the best of equipment but with little serious pre-season practice. Hunting together, they encountered an unusually obliging 8-point buck at a range of 30 yards.

While the deer browsed almost unconcernedly, the wife shot all her arrows without scoring a single hit. Her husband then divided his supply of arrows and both shot at the deer. None of the arrows found their mark, nor came close enough to frighten it. The buck finally walked off into the brush, leaving the couple searching for more than a dozen broadhead hunting arrows!

Usually, as in the described case, inexperience and poor marksmanship — particularly inability to accurately judge shooting ranges — ruin the average bowhunter's chances of bringing home a deer. But lack of skill can also be costly dollarwise!

For example, within the territorial limits of one of Wisconsin's popular deer hunting areas an estimated 180,000 arrows have been lost since the area was opened to the public hunting. Similarly, many an arrow released by Florida bowmen is also rotting away under concealing leaves or openly stuck in a tree limb. With a good broadhead costing anywhere from a dollar up, losing a hunting arrow is literally throwing money away fast! Wisconsin archers are not alone in woeful realization of that fact. . . .

For hunting, most modern archers favor a bow having recurved ends rather than the straight-end English style bow, because the recurved style gives a somewhat flatter arrow trajectory than straight-limb bows of identical power. Flat arrow trajectory becomes a highly desirable quality when one must flight an arrow accurately through a grove of low-limbed trees.

Ideally, a good bow is one that gives a feeling of smoothness in the hand as it is being shot, that shoots an arrow at a peak velocity of 180-200 feet per second,

maintains its rated power over a long bow life and gives uniform, accurate performance. Any bow that possesses such qualities is a good bow to use for hunting, whether it is of wood, Fiberglas, metal or laminated wood and Fiberglas composition.

Regardless of its basic material, a bow's pull is measured in the power (number of pounds of exerted effort) required to pull an arrow of properly matched length to "full draw." Many beginners wrongly conclude that a hunting bow should have a rated pull of 60 pounds up to be lethal. Actually, a medium weight bow of from 40 to 45 pounds will kill any of Florida's large game animals as easily as those pulling sixty and seventy pounds.

It is most important that the archer not be over-bowed; even as little as five pounds of excess pull beyond his margin of comfort and perfect control can be a handicap. Beginners, therefore, should select bows that pull within their limitations. Desirably, the archer should be able to pull his bow and hold his aim at full draw for ten seconds without tremors or fast fatigue.

The potential killing power of a hunting bow is directly related to the velocity and distance it will "cast" or shoot a hunting arrow, not necessarily to the

(Continued on Next Page)



A broadhead hunting arrow does not have anywhere near the velocity of a bullet, but it delivers a powerful punch. The pictured test section of a bullet-proof vest stopped a .45 caliber pistol bullet, but failed to withstand the impact of a hunting arrow fired at the same distance, — 25 yards.



Technically known as flu-flu arrows, the missiles are used for walk-em-up quail and pheasant hunting.



(Continued from Preceding Page)

bow's "weight," or pounds of pull, at full draw. Many bows of only 35 pounds are capable of driving an arrow entirely through a deer; there are numerous cases of record. Also, some efficient bows of lighter weight will often shoot an arrow faster and farther than rival weapons of heavier pull. One 35 pound bow given recent test on a Florida range cast an arrow 174½ measured yards.

Such performance is not described to discourage you from purchasing a heavy drawing bow if you are capable of properly shooting it, but to assure you that the fellow who shoots a more powerful bow does not necessarily have the hunting odds in his favor.

Until 1956, Florida bowmen could not legally hunt with any bow pulling less than 40 pounds when fully drawn. Because many women and some men cannot draw a 40 pound bow with the comfort needed for complete mastery, the rule was changed from a minimum poundage to recognized ability of a bow to shoot a one-ounce hunting arrow a minimum of 150 yards.

Experts readily rate arrow selection ahead of bow choice in exerting greatest influence on one's hunting success. They take care to match arrows for straightness, weight and spine (stiffness of shaft) for the bow weight used, and correct in length for their drawing ability.

There are three recognized methods of determining one's correct arrow length.

One way is to extend both arms from the sides and measure from extended finger tip to extended finger tip. The overall measurement is then compared with a master chart compiled by arrow manufacturers, and to recommended minimum bow length, as shown in the following table:

Experienced bow and arrow hunters take every precaution to see that conditions are just right for the kill. This bowhunter's hat is designed to offer head protection but in no way interferes with shooting techniques.

Arm Spread Measurement	Arrow Length	Suggested Minimum Bow Length
57-59 in.	22-23 in.	Not under 4 ft., 6 in.
60-62 in.	23-24 in.	
63-65 in.	24-25 in.	Not under 5 ft., 0 in.
66-68 in.	25-26 in.	
69-71 in.	26-27 in.	Not under 5 ft., 6 in.
72-74 in.	27-28 in.	
75-77 in.	28-29 in.	Not under 5 ft., 9 in.
Over 77 in.	30 in.	Not under 6 ft., 0 in.

A second method is to place a sample arrow with its feathered end against the hollow of the neck, and with the pointed end resting between fully extended arms and forefingers. The proper length arrow is regarded as being the measurement from the base of the neck to the finger tips. Substitution of a yardstick for an arrow will make the determination a one-phase job.

The third — and probably most accurate — method is to make a full and relaxed draw of an arrow fitted to a very light bow, while a companion takes the full draw measurement. Out of a panel of 25 archery experts queried on the subject, 19 expressed preference for this method.

But the archer's drawing length is not the same as the overall length of his arrow; the attached point must be considered.

A target arrow is measured from the bottom of the nock to the front shoulder of the point. Field or blunt arrows are measured to the back end of the



Photo by Bill Hansen

Game Commission personnel are on hand during the hunts to offer advice and assistance. Hunt Director Matt Whisenhunt, at Eglin Air Force Base, explains hunt boundaries to two Pensacola archers.

point. Field or blunt arrows are measured to the back end of the point, regardless of the type of field or blunt point used. An extra measure of length—usually about three-quarters of an inch — is figured for broad-head arrows, to give the archer's fingers some room between the blade and the bow when arrows are fully drawn.

The beginner's usual mistake is to buy his target and hunting arrows too long, too cheap and unmatched for uniform performance with the particular bow-weight used.

Also, if broadhead hunting arrows are not truly sharp and fast cutting, they may merely push aside the larger, tough and elastic blood vessels and painfully wound instead of killing quickly and mercifully through created fast hemorrhage.

For sharpening broadheads a file is better than an oilstone, because the file tends to leave an advantageous serrated cutting edge on the steel blades.

Most bow manufacturers consider six inches as the minimum standard measurement of the fistmele, or distance between the back of the bow handle and the string of a strung bow. Less than six inches fistmele measurement causes loss of power and slapping of the bowstring against the archer's forearm. Too much fistmele puts undue strain on the bow when it is flexed for each shot.

Every bow has its minimum and maximum fistmele limit for satisfactory performance. Usually this information is packed with the bow; when it is not, a note to the bow's manufacturer will obtain for you the recommended fistmele measurement.

When you buy your bow, purchase a couple of extra strings of the same type, length and strength as the one packed with the bow. Record the technical specifications for future reference. Should you contemplate changing to another bowstring strength, write the bow's manufacturer for his opinion.

Take care of your bowstring. Keep it well waxed and use a rubber tip on the lower end of your bow to keep the bow tip and string from picking up abrasive materials at their contact point.

Generally, if you shoot a lot, you will have to replace your bowstring about every three months — more often if loose threads, frayed spots and wear points appear despite care. Short bows are harder on strings than long ones, experts say. They recommend that you make frequent inspection of the condition of your bowstring, whatever your bow type. Should the bowstring break, the sudden release of spring-like tension may also break the bow. For the same reason, a strung bow should never be drawn and the bowstring permitted to slip from one's fingers unless an arrow is fitted to the string.

Also important to hunting success is the type of quiver used. The idea is to provide silent and convenient storage while permitting quick, quiet with-



Commission Photo by Jim Floyd

When hunting arrows are sharp, even a 35-pound drawing weight bow is capable of killing a deer; there are numerous cases of record. Jack Fullbright downed this buck on the opening day last year.

drawal of successive arrows. Generally, quivers of the conventional shoulder or back style are fine for target shooting and open country hunting, but may be awkward to use in thick brush and by left-handed persons. Considered better for hunting use are bow and hip quivers, and certain center back-slung models permitting withdrawal of arrows from either side rather than by overhead motion.

A bow quiver attaches right on the bow and usually holds anywhere from three to five arrows.

The hip or pocket pouch quiver is a leather holder that loops on the belt and extends down into a back hip pants' pocket. Ease of use makes it a good choice for beginners and left-handed persons.

Although a sharp broadhead arrow can be sure death to a deer hit in any vital area, it does not have the speedy flight of a rifle bullet. Alert deer will sometimes hear the bull-fiddle twang of the bowstring and bolt before the arrow can reach its mark. On advice of nationally recognized experts, serious Florida bowmen now use pliable rubber brush buttons to deaden the warning twang of the bowstring. A homemade version is a strip of innertube $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch wide and 2 inches long knotted around the bowstring opposite the middle of a limb.

Other essentials include a shooting glove that snugly fits the hand and protects the bow-drawing fingertips, an armguard to protect the archer's forearm from possible bowstring slap, and a knapsack in which to carry such items as bow wax, extra bowstrings, spare arrow nocks and replacement points, cement, knife, compass, snake bite kit and articles of personal choice.

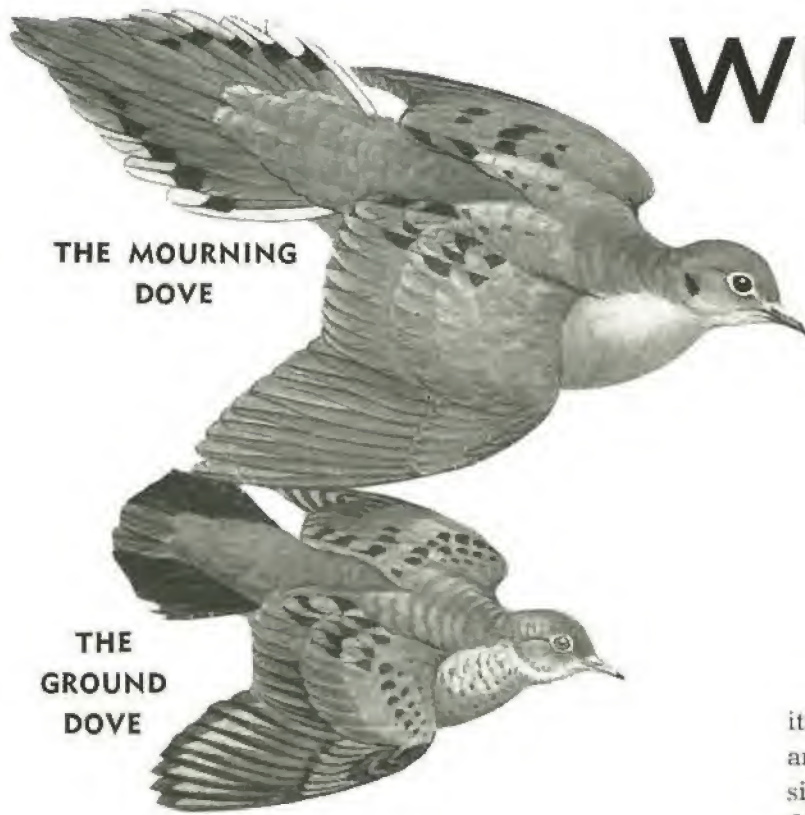
For the experimenter and gadgeteer, there are all

(Continued on Page 42)

WHAT ABOUT

THE MOURNING
DOVE

THE
GROUND
DOVE



Here are some plain
facts about the Mourning Dove
and the long-time
controversy connected with
the setting of hunting
season dates and regulations

THE MOURNING DOVE NESTS in and is found in every state in the U.S.A. during the summer. Later in the fall when the weather turns cold, doves migrate southward to the southern states, Mexico and Central America. A good number of doves winter in Florida, some pass through further south. Florida is fortunate in having also a large home grown population which seldom leaves the southern half of the state. The changing of Florida lands to agricultural use provides more food and nesting sites.

Mourning doves are sometimes confused with the Ground Dove which is native to the Southeast. The Ground Dove is smaller, differently marked and does not have the same habit as the mourning dove of appearing in large concentrations. The ground dove is classified as a song bird, and is protected by law.

As shown in the illustration, the mourning dove is a slender, medium-sized bird approximately twelve inches in length. The average weight of the bird is four ounces, but some individuals attain the weight of six ounces. The main characteristic of this species is the long and pointed tail that does not occur in any other species of pigeon or dove. The dove is a rapid flier able to cover long distances in one day. In its quick starting flight, or when it slows down with outspread tail feathers to land, there is a distinct whistling sound also characteristic of the bird.

Doves in south Florida nest during every month of the year. In central and north Florida, this nesting cycle is delayed a few months because of the cooler weather. The dove nesting cycle, statewide, reaches

its highest nesting population peak sometime in May and June. The calling or cooing of the birds is a first sign of courting, and is accompanied by spectacular flights until the birds are paired off. Then close contact, billing, calling and nest building begin. Nest building, laying and incubation of eggs (usually two) and feather growth for flight of the hatchlings require a period slightly longer than one month. With this time element, doves are able to nest four or five times during the year. In South Florida, where doves are trapped for banding and other information, immature birds are taken during all months of the year. As the young birds leave the nest they start grouping with other young birds and start flying in flocks. Adult birds continue their nesting activity until later in the fall when they join the birds of the year, and seek food in groups that reach large proportions (up to several thousands).

The mourning dove's diet consists mainly of seeds. In part these are the seed of grasses, crotons, ragweeds and other plants not found under cultivation. From the cultivated fields, corn, sorghum, millets and chufas are rated very highly in the dove diet.

The mourning dove is not only a very fast flyer, but also displays an erratic shifting of direction and speed in flight which makes so elusive a target that it is not uncommon to find a skilled hunter expending a whole box of shells without a hit. The sight of a great flock of the gray birds whistling into a field of ripened grain some cool fall day offers an unforgetably stimulating challenge to the man who hunts for recreation. Small wonder the mourning dove is one of the leading game birds of the south. Because the bird migrates over state boundaries, its hunting is controlled rigorously by federal laws and policed by federal as well as state officers.

Mourning doves, like other small game, viz., quail,

THE DOVE

By FRANK WINSTON
Game Management Division

squirrel, rabbit and pheasant, have a high population turnover during the year. The first year mortality rate for doves is approximately 70 percent, with an average annual mortality thereafter of 55 percent. The greatest percentage of this mortality derives from natural causes. Lack of food, disease, predators and weather play a very important role. All statistics to date indicate that the percent mortality by the gun is small; of the doves banded in the state, less than three percent have been recovered by hunters.

Within our present levels of technical knowledge, therefore, the conclusion has been reached that, with sensible regulation, the taking of doves with a gun not only in no way endangers the survival of the species, but also, while providing excellent recreation, makes wise use of a natural resource by allowing the "harvest" of an "annual crop" which disappears, whether hunted or not.

Split Dove Season

The split mourning dove season is one of the most controversy-creating regulations set by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. A review of regulations history, facts revealed through various

The Mourning Dove (top) is a slender, medium-sized bird, approximately 12 inches in length. The Ground Dove (bottom) is much smaller, has different markings, and is classified as a song bird, protected by law.

Complete information on this year's dove hunting seasons and regulations appear on page-34. Although the second half of the split-season is open state-wide, certain counties and areas will be closed during the first half of the season. Shooting will be allowed from 12-noon until sunset only. The daily bag limit is 10, — possession limit is 20.



dove studies and the voiced opposition to these regulations should prove informative.

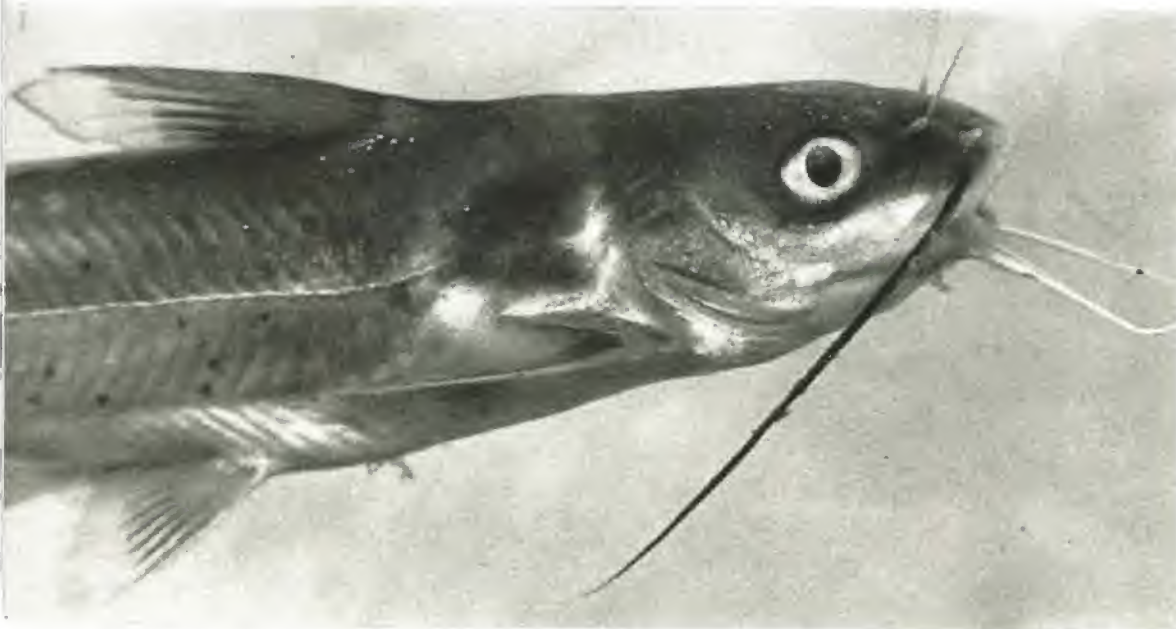
The mourning dove is a migratory bird protected by the United States federal migratory bird regulations, and in addition, by laws of nearly all the states. Protection also is offered under an international treaty with Canada and Mexico. Legal hunting seasons and bag limits are provided in approximately 24 states where dove is considered suitable for sport and table use. Dove regulations were formed first in 1918 on a nation-wide basis.

In Florida, a separate season for south and west Florida was set in 1933 and 1934. Subsequently, a separate season for South Florida (Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties) was adhered to until 1951. This allowed shooting of dove mainly through the month of October. The rest of the year, these three counties were closed to hunting of doves. The other counties were allowed to hunt doves between dates set during the regular hunting season for all game.

The list of regulations since 1918 shows that there has been a great variance in seasons from year to year. Inevitably, one questions the basis for determining the shifts from season to season. In reviewing this past history of regulations, it becomes apparent that the determining factor was the varying strengths of pressure groups from various counties. The three southern-most counties justified their variance on the claim that their doves came from Cuba. Subsequent work in the Florida dove study (involving cooperative trapping and band recovery publicity in Cuba) has established evidence that while there is a small degree of exchange between Cuba and the mainland, most of the birds available in the southern counties are "home-grown".

In 1952, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service ruled that Florida had been having two separate dove seasons and felt that hunters were enjoying a double season by travelling from one area to another as the dove hunting seasons opened. They defined this form

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Commission Photo by Wallace Hughes

There are at least four types of catfish found in Florida waters. These include the speckled Catfish, the Channel Catfish, the White Catfish and the Yellow Catfish. Pictured at left is a channel cat, popular as a fighter, and favored by the fish-fry gourmets.

Prescription for top
sport:
a slow-moving river,
a warm, relaxing day,
— and
a battling catfish

Cat Fishing — River Style

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

"**A** MAN CAN'T HURRY a lazy old catfish," drawled Tom Chapman. "You got to wait 'im out."

That's exactly what we were doing, sitting patiently on the grassy bank of the Orange River early one clear-breaking summer morning. Our lines trailed off into the river, taut and swaying with a faint breeze. The dingy water was flecked with shadows from the tree-lined banks. It was still, reflecting like a mirror. Across the way a pair of gray squirrels was swinging merrily through the branches of a moss-draped oak tree. An energetic mullet broke the quiet surface, skipping along with two wild leaps. It was a peaceful and relaxing scene, one that a fisherman naturally associates with cat fishing.

Tom reeled in his line and examined his bait. The earthworms were limp and waterlogged.

He said, "You've got to have a big fresh bait to tempt a hungry cat." Digging two more wiggling worms from a tin can, he threaded them on his hook and pitched the squirming gob out in the middle of the sluggish current. He sat back to wait again.

"Time doesn't mean a thing to a catfish," he explained. "A bass might rush up to a bait and wallop it instantly. But a cat takes his time. He'll work to the bait slowly and deliberately. A cat fisherman has got to have patience."

When a man's lying lazily on a soft river bank, he has time to relax and philosophize about things in general. I started thinking about the contrast between fishing for the sedate cat and the explosive black bass. Had I been bass plugging at this very moment, no

doubt I would have been paddling parallel to a river or lake bank, working steadily as I cast to all the likely spots with my artificial bait. But now I was doing the exact opposite—just waiting, well knowing that if I waited long enough, sooner or later a catfish would become mildly interested in my baiting resting idly on the river bottom.

I leaned back, cupped my hands behind my head, and dozed. I lost track of the time. Sometime later—perhaps only a few minutes—I was rudely awakened by a sudden high-pitched whirring noise as a cat snatched a bait and ripped off line against the click of a casting reel.

Tom's wife, Irene, leaped up, grabbed her rod cradled in a wire holder pushed in the moist bank, and yanked sharply. The tip heeled over and danced. "Got a good one," she squealed.

The cat fought grudgingly in stubborn rushes down deep. Shortly it rolled to the surface, twisting frantically. Irene played it close, gave a quick heave and dropped the flouncing fish on the grass. It was a slim and white one, about two pounds. She dropped it in a burlap bag hanging in the water and rebaited her hook.

About ten minutes later I felt the tip of my spinning rod slapping against my leg. I grabbed it and jerked. The fish bored deep, bending a satisfying curve in the pliant rod. Presently it joined its comrades in the burlap bag.



Irene Chapman looks over a two-pounder (left) and then settles back, waiting patiently on the bank of the Orange River.

"We used to put the cats on a stringer," explained Irene, "But the blasted crabs chewed them. Then we started using the bag and now we like it better than anything else."

Tom Chapman is a stocky construction worker who'd rather fish than eat. His petite wife shares his enthusiasm for the outdoors. They enjoy their favorite pastime every weekend.

"Tom's the fisherman in this family," Irene said proudly. "About all I'm good for is to clean the catch."

"Don't let her kid you," he confessed, winking. "She usually catches the most, but I wouldn't admit it to many people. After all, a man does have his pride."

When I was down in Fort Myers recently visited my good friend Clarence Brown, I got the fishing fever. But I didn't know the best places to go, so I asked Clarence who might volunteer the information.

"Give Tom Chapman a call," he said unhesitatingly "He's a topnotch fisherman and he knows where you can catch 'em."

I telephoned him and asked about a place to fish. "Got a good cat-fishing spot I'll be glad to share with you," he offered generously. "My wife and I are planning a little outing in the morning. Care to join us?"

I said I would and asked him what time he would like to leave.

"About daybreak," he replied. "It's just a short run to the Orange River. We ought to be fishing before sunup."

The early start was planned strategy, I later found out. The following morning we enjoyed furious action for the initial thirty minutes. A bait no sooner would

sink to bottom than a spirited cat would grab it. But soon after the sun edged above the treetops, action slowed. From then until 10 o'clock we got only an occasional bite.

"Cats seem to hit best early," Tom explained. "You can catch 'em throughout the day, but early and late are best, and of the two I'll take the morning anytime."

Of all baits he likes ordinary earthworms best. He prefers a big fresh bait. "A cat roots along the bottom after food. He seems to hunt both by sight and smell. That's why a fresh bait will get the most bites. I like to change baits about every fifteen minutes if action is slow."

The reason more people aren't too successful with catfish is simply because they are going at it all wrong, he observed. Many fish for cats with a bobber and cane pole. "You'll get a few cats that way," he agreed, "but not near as many as you will if you put your bait right down on bottom."

Tom's favorite cat fishing tools are a casting outfit and a fly rig. The casting rod is the most practical, he told me, because it is easier to cast a heavy sinker which will hold the bait in a current. Also the angler can put down his rod and still know when he gets a bite by the telltale click of the reel. But his pet is the limber fly rod whenever he can use it. "A pound-size cat can put up a dandy scrap on a fly rod," he said.

The best place to fish for cats is a slow-moving river, preferably one with dingy waters. Tom said he likes to look for back eddies where the sluggish current is swirling about. "A cat can lie in such a spot and catch all the food he wants without working. A cat is lazy. He won't move about like a bass. In-

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When it comes to hunting and fishing the out-of-the-way "hot spots," there's nothing like having one of those

LITTLE BITTY BOATS

By CHARLES WATERMAN

SEVERAL TIMES I HAVE STOPPED to catch my breath after busting through acres of brush, bog or palmetto to find someone had beaten me to a "secret" fishing hole—and often as not the sneak was smugly casting from some kind of a boat.

With the boat shows largely given over to big utilities and cruisers we're apt to forget the wondrous things that can be done with runty little craft of 9 feet or less. I always have one around the place somewhere and am continually surprised at the spots I can get to with it.

Users of pee-wee boats are seldom addicted to yachting caps and club cruisers but they're often some of the fish-catchingest, duck-shootingest folks around and their investment is small.

This is not about canoes or big folding craft, efficient as they are. I'm talking about real midgets, some of which you can tote on your shoulder while you pack your fishing or hunting gear in the other hand. Many of them are the products of fertile imagination and necessity.

Ted Strawn of DeLand used to have one that operated on land as a wheelbarrow. When he got to the water he took off the wheel, climbed aboard and set forth with confidence. He also had a strange contraption that fit between the floats of his seaplane. Once at his chosen site he'd unfasten it and take off with a pair of featherweight oars.

I once saw a guy with a catamarin ding-fod made from aircraft wing tanks. The whole thing went into his car trunk and he assembled it in a couple of minutes when he reached the lake shore. While I wrestled with a bigger boat he caught bass.

I once went fishing with a fellow named Tony Baima. We took a little rubber raft with us and when we arrived at our chosen pond we found there was 50 yards of soft mud between us and the water. Tony and I got aboard and, using a couple of push poles we navigated the mud without mishap. We'd stand up leaning on the poles and at a given signal would take most of our weight off the boat bottom. Then we'd skid the whole boat forward and repeat the process. We reached the water with dry feet. By that time I was too tired to fish but Tony caught a nice bass.

This aluminum boat weighs 58 pounds and has a fairly wide stern for motor use. The author's only objection is that there is no foot room ahead of the front seat.



A little bitty boat and bream fishing in a Cypress swamp.

For most back country use I'm inclined to lean toward the 9-foot square-ender with a flat bottom that turns up a little at one or both ends. My first choice is aluminum with plywood a close second. I've no quarrel with canvas-covered boats although the very light ones may not be quite as rugged as desired. There are some good fiberglass models, most of which are a bit heavier than aluminum. In these miniatures, material is not as important as shape. You want all of the room you can get in a short, light package.

Most of the abuse received by pee-wee boats comes during loading, unloading and launching. It must be sturdy but it doesn't need the type of strength required for high speed, big outboard operation and that's why it can be light and still roomy.

Now and then a backyard builder gets a bit carried away and goes overboard on strength. When he picks up the finished product his knees buckle.

Although many of these very small boats are carried on car tops a real pee-wee is small enough to slide into a station wagon or pickup truck. I'd put the maximum weight limit at around 70 pounds and they can be much lighter.

A car trunk used to be a fine spot for a pee-wee boat but car trunks have been healing up in recent years. As the fins and doo-dads sprout, the trunk space shrinks. Only a few current models have big trunks with largs doors. Convenience must give way to style and I doubt if there will be a fisherman's hardtop so you'd best stick to station wagons, carry-alls, pickup trucks, old models and car roof installations.



The author "picks up" after a duck shoot from a plywood "johnboat" in the Everglades.

Most tiny boats are for fishing or hunting and a fairly flat bottom and steadiness in calm water is very important. They are not intended for rough water.

With possible exception of the inflated rubber boat the craft I am speaking of are for use only on "small" water. I've owned quite a number of them and I've reached some pretty pig-headed conclusions about them. Here goes.

The true dinghy, no matter how light and compact, doesn't fill the bill too well. Dinghys are made to carry heavy loads and generally have round bottoms and fairly high sides. This construction makes them good in a choppy sea. You can take a real peanut-size dinghy, pile it full of human flesh and take off with safety as long as everybody stays where he belongs but very small dinghys, due to their round bottoms, are a bit unsteady when you land a fish or miss a duck with a magnum shotgun. They were originally intended as tenders for larger boats and are fine for harbor navigation. They are fast with oars. I used a fine aluminum dinghy for a couple of years for small lake fishing but I went back to flat bottoms.

The inflatable rubber boat has some fine qualities. The darned thing is capable of enduring tremendous seas and it is the favorite of those who do their fishing in fast water. The life-raft type, however, won't manage well in a high wind and it's hard to get into with dry feet when it's beached. It usually does not have a rigged bottom. I have one in the 4-man size which is light and roomy. Deflated, you can carry it in a big packsack. It rows and paddles easily as long as the wind stays down but it is not particularly adapted to Florida's small lakes. When inflated it takes up a lot of space for its passenger area.

The one-man life rafts are little more than floating

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The author's wife, Debie Waterman, steps out of a rubber boat to cast for trout in a Montana river. Rubber boats are sometimes useful in Florida waters but are not as convenient as rigid boats in most cases.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

doughnuts. Your quarters are cramped and you should leave your friends at home.

There are some fine inflatable boats made for sportsmen and some of them will take good-sized outboard motors but they're pretty expensive. If you put out something over \$200 you can get a beautiful job but most fishermen and hunters won't go that high for a pee-wee boat.

Pointed pirogues or miniature canoes are tricky to use and waste space with their extra length. They are made for paddling or poling and motors are out. They have the advantage of going easily through weeds or hyacinths and one version is called the tule splitter, popular among western duck hunters. I don't think they fit Florida. The kayak is usually too tippy for more than one passenger and gets pretty long.

After a lot of experimenting I've decided the small, square-ended pram is best for my purpose with the square-ended "johnboat" a close second. The difference between the two isn't much and the definitions are loose.

Most johnboats, so popular in the Ozark mountain country of Missouri and Arkansas, are the same width at both ends and their bottoms turn up at both bow and stern. Now don't get excited. I know they're not all built that way but the pram and the johnboat are kissing kin and it's hard to tell where one leaves off and the other starts.

The little boat which I particularly like and which I'm using now is made of aluminum. It is nine feet long, weighs less than 60 pounds and turns up slightly at the bow, which is narrower than the stern. The stern is wide enough to work well with a small outboard and the outfit goes smoothly into a station wagon or carry-all.

This boat is comfortable for two people and works much better with oars than with a paddle. If only one person is aboard the paddle is very unsatisfactory for you have to sit close to the gunwale and you don't have much freeboard. If you get too enthusiastic with the paddle you're apt to get your wallet wet. But with the oars you can really scoot with one passenger while sitting in the center of the rear seat facing forward. You can do even better from the center seat and facing the stern when you're alone.

There are three seats. Seats are important because they help hold the little craft together. My only beef with my puddle yacht is that the front seat is clear against the bow and the passenger there has to face aft. It would be better if he had foot room between his seat and the bow but that's tough to manage in so short a boat.

As my joints get stiffer I'd rather not spend the whole day in the thing as there's no room for walking around. In fact, he who fishes standing up in my boat is (a) alone, (b) a tight rope walker or (c) a very foolish fisherman.

Now I use a 3-horse Johnson motor on my boat and that seems about right although it might work with up to a 6-horse or 7-horse engine if you're careful. With two passengers the boat goes right along. Speed is seldom important with a pee-wee boat but the pram type goes pretty good under power.



A tiny boat is ideal for maneuvering through the close quarters in a cypress swamp.

When one person operates a very small boat with outboard motor he usually finds his weight is needed up toward the center. A steering handle extension or a long arm solves the problem.

Some time back I went duck hunting with my boat and a 200-pound friend. A couple of dead pintails drifted around out of sight and my pal went to pick them up while I stayed on the stand. The water was hardly a foot deep and after he'd been out of sight for a couple of minutes I heard the tone of the little motor change.

"Hey, lookit me!" howled my buddy and I was astonished to see him sizzling into view with the boat up on plane and the little 3-horse making like a racer for the first time in its life. The answer was, of course, that the very shallow water allowed the boat to "get up". It wouldn't work in deep water.

After that we found that a youngster of less than 100 pounds could plane anywhere and go maybe 15 miles an hour. That speed is only a guess, of course.

I use my little boat as a piggy-back craft. It nests perfectly in the bow of my 14-footer. On duck-hunting trips we'd get to the scene with the bigger outfit and then launch our little one for use in a crowded blind. We painted the pram olive drab. That boat was made by Vio Holda of Topeka, Kansas. It's expensive when compared to plywood boats but I guess it'll last longer than I will.

Kit boats of the pram type are very popular and not difficult to build. After looking at some backyard efforts I'd advise you to get some plans before building a boat. You might forget something important if it isn't written down.

I was looking at U Mak It kit boats the other day. Made up in Florida, they come with clear instructions. Even a thumb-smasher like me could build a pram—if he didn't stray too much from the plans.

Once you get your pee-wee boat out of the car and head for the water you need a way of carrying it because there's probably no launching ramp where you're going. You may have to walk through some troublesome footing and a little experimenting beforehand will be a big help.

I've had good luck with the boat on my shoulders in the classic manner of those hardy characters depicted packing canoes in the north country. You may need a pad or a strap to get hold of it right because if it won't balance it's like carrying a bushel basket full of live gophers. You can work it out if you take a little time.

Two anglers can carry it easily but if the other guy has a tackle box, two rods, a pair of oars, a jug of wa-



Piggy-back use of the author's little aluminum pram. Boat was used to enter narrow creek that would not take the larger craft.

ter, a lunch basket, an outboard motor and nine speckled perch on a string you may have to do it yourself.

In defiance of picturesque convention and in spite of the fact it isn't good for the bottom (my conscience won't let me recommend this) I generally do the obvious. I DRAG the danged thing. Two or three keel strips will help here. One deep keel is a nuisance in the dragging operation.

If you want to get away from beer cans and speed boats, try a pee-wee. You might be surprised at how quiet it is back in those little lakes. ●



Bass fishing in a back-country lake that couldn't be reached with 'normal-size' skiff.

Game Laws and Dates

1959-60

Hunting Season

Turkey

Daily bag limit, 2; season bag limit 3.

First District: November 21 through January 3, except counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, and Hillsborough south of U.S. Highway 92, where the open season will extend from November 21 through November 29, and December 25 through January 3. Hunting permitted every day. Pinellas County CLOSED.

Second District: November 21 through January 10. First nine days open; December 25 through January 3, open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times. That portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18, and east of U. S. Highway 441 CLOSED at all times.

Third District: November 21 through January 10. Hunting permitted every day. Special Gobbler Season, April 2 through April 10; ½-hour before sunrise to 12-noon.

Fourth District: November 21 through January 3. Hunting permitted every day. Collier County open November 21 through November 29, and December 25 through January 3.

Fifth District: November 21 through January 10. First nine days open. December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

Deer

Deer must have at least one antler measuring five inches or over in length. Daily bag limit 1; season bag limit, 2.

First District: November 21 through January 3. Hunting permitted every day. Counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto, and Hillsborough south of U. S. Highway 92 CLOSED.

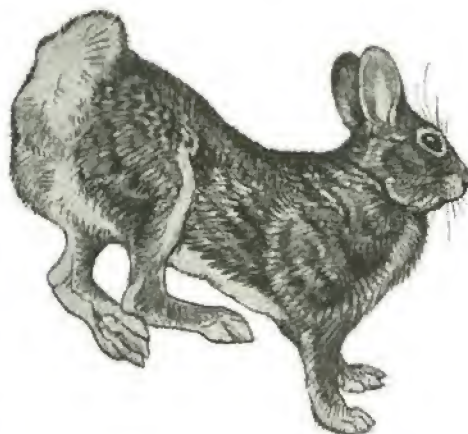
Second District: November 21

through January 10. First nine days open; December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times. Special Season in Gilchrist County November 21 through December 13. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED. That portion of Columbia County south of State Road 18, and east of U. S. Highway 441 CLOSED.

Third District: November 21 through January 10. Hunting permitted every day. Okaloosa and Walton Counties open November 21 through December 6, and December 19 through January 3. Washington, Jackson and Holmes Counties CLOSED. Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties CLOSED except within the Eglin and Blackwater Management areas.

Fourth District: November 21 through January 3. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County CLOSED to the hunting of Key Deer.

Fifth District: November 21 through January 10. First nine days open. December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.



Squirrel

Daily bag limit, 10 gray, two fox; no season's bag limit.

First District: November 21 through February 14. Hunting permitted every day.

Second District: November 21 through February 14. First nine days open. December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

Third District: November 21 through February 14. Hunting permitted every day.

Fourth District: November 21 through February 14. Hunting permitted every day.

Fifth District: November 21 through February 14. First nine days open. December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

Quail

Daily bag limit 10; no season's bag limit.

First District: November 21 through February 14. Hunting permitted every day.

Second District: November 21 through February 14. First nine days open. December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

Third District: November 21 through February 14. Hunting permitted every day.

Fourth District: November 21 through February 14. Hunting permitted every day.

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CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



GENERAL REGULATIONS

All dates shown are inclusive. Opening day, closing day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are open to hunting. Should any one of the above holidays fall on a Sunday, the Monday following such holiday will be open to hunting.

Bow and arrow are permitted for taking of game animals and game birds. Cross bows are not legal for taking game.

Shotguns must be limited to 3-shell capacity (magazine and chamber combined).

Sale of native game prohibited. No open season on doe deer, fawn deer, spotted or Axis deer, buck deer with antlers of less than 5 inches in length, cub bear, snow goose, swan, and non-game birds. Panther protected at all times.

Unprotected are English sparrow, crow, jackdaw, buzzard, skunk, flying squirrel, opossum, red and gray fox, bobcat, raccoon.



(Continued from Preceding Page)

Fifth District: November 21 through February 14. First nine days open. December 25 through January 3 open. Monday, Tuesday and Friday **CLOSED** at all other times.

Rabbit

Both cottontails and swamp rabbits are declared to be game animals. There is no closed season for the taking of rabbits, and no daily bag or possession limit.

A hunting license is required to take rabbits during the regular open season for game animals and birds.

Rabbits may be taken at night under special permit issued by the Director of the Game and Fresh

Water Fish Commission when the animals are found to be damaging personal property.

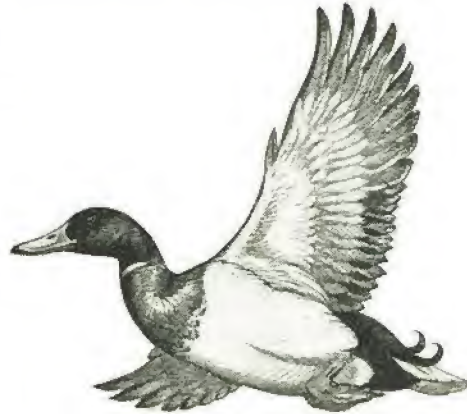
Other Species

Black bear is legal game during the open deer season and special Management Area hunts only. Daily

and seasonal bag limit is one. Cub bears are protected at all times.

Wild hogs are considered game animals in certain Wildlife Management areas during the open seasons designated for each area, with the bag limit set as one per day and two per season.

Panther is now protected at all times. Doe and fawn deer are protected at all times.



Shooting Hours

The shooting hours for native game animals and birds will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The shooting hours for all migratory birds appear in the special schedule at the bottom of this page.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

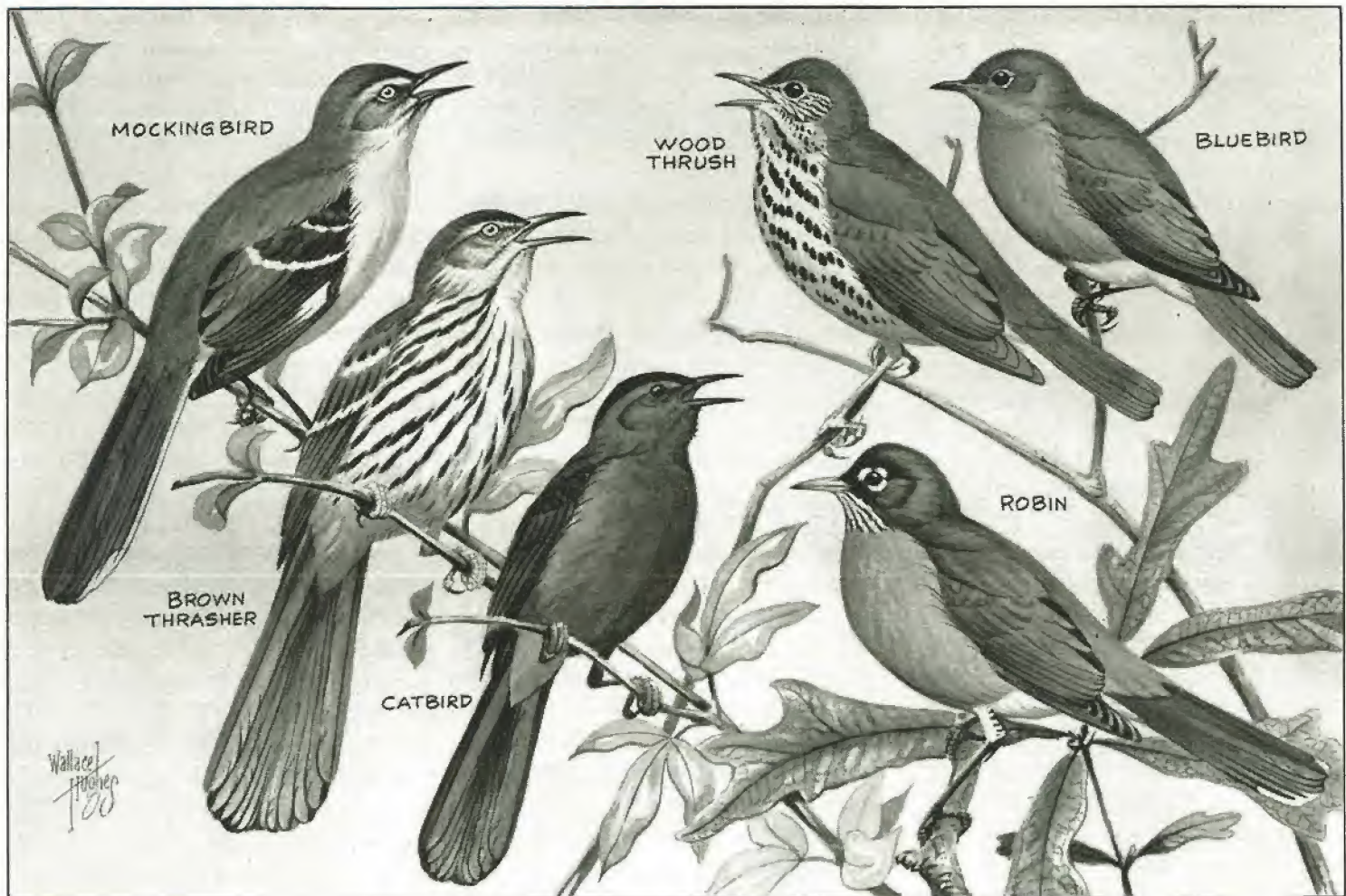
Species	Open Season	Daily Bag	Possession	Daily Shooting Hours
Rail (marsh hen) and Gallinule	Sept. 5 through Nov. 8	15	30	½-hour before sunrise to sunset
Woodcock	Dec. 12 through Jan. 10	4	8	½-hour before sunrise to sunset
Dove	*Oct. 10 through Nov 1 and Nov. 26 through Jan. 6	10	20	12-noon to sunset
Snipe	Dec. 5 through Jan. 3	8	8	Sunrise to sunset
Duck	Nov. 30 (12-noon) through Jan. 8	**4	**8	Sunrise to sunset, except Nov. 30, when shooting will start at 12-noon
Geese	Nov. 21 through Jan. 8	2	4	Sunrise to sunset
Coot	Nov. 30 (12-noon) through Jan. 8	4	8	Sunrise to sunset, except Nov. 30, when shooting will start at 12-noon
All Dates Shown Are Inclusive		Hunting Permitted Every Day		

*That part of Franklin County (Third District) east of State Road 30, and a line extending from the point where State Road 30 turns west to the water line and including all of Alligator Point will be **CLOSED** to the taking of doves during the Oct. 10 through Nov. 1 portion of the dove season. There will be **NO HUNTING** of doves during the Oct. 10 through Nov. 1 season in Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, Collier, Okeechobee, St. Johns, Flagler Volusia and Brevard Counties; and Putnam County east of the St. Johns River.

The bag and possession limit of ducks shall be **FOUR and **EIGHT** respectively two of which may be wood duck, one of which may be a hooded merganser, and one of which may be **EITHER** a canvasback, redhead, or ruddy duck. It is emphasized that the bag and possession limits for these listed species are the same. — The day's bag limit of American and red-breasted mergansers is **FIVE** (singly or in aggregate) and possession limit is 10. Limits on American and red-breasted mergansers are in addition to limits on other ducks.

Dates and Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas to Be Announced

FLORIDA BIRDLIFE



Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*.

As storybook Dixie as the sweet magnolia blossoms and crinkling crinoline, as down South as grits and collard greens, that is the mockingbird. He is at once a singer of whispy nostalgic ballads and a fearless jook-joint type brawler in defense of his home territory.

The mocker is no avian beauty to be sure. Gray and brown hues combined with white predominate the plain, unspectacular pattern of the plumage. In general body conformation the 10½ inches of total length is put together in a bird of medium build. The mockingbird somewhat resembles the shrike but the more slender bill and the longer tail readily separate the mocker from the "butcherbird."

The species is an abundant resident throughout the state. Although it is not uncommonly encountered in the swamps and forests of the back country, the mockingbird

seems partial to crop lands and wooded residential sections where shrubs and trees offer cover and food in abundance.

As its name indicates, the mockingbird is an accomplished mimic. Its rollicking song is a medley of infinite variety frequently interspersed with wonderfully accurate reproductions of the songs of many other birds. During mid-winter the call is little more than a harsh *chuck* but as spring nears, the cheery, rollicking song peals forth with increasing frequency.

The nesting period in Florida extends over five months beginning in March. There are two or more broods raised each year. The 3 to 5 greenish eggs are marked with brown spots and blotches.

Various fruits, berries, and seeds make up the bulk of the diet with insects and spiders now and again supplementing the vegetable material.

Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*.

Many a Florida turkey hunter has listened with tingling nerves to loud scratchings and rustlings in the dead leaf carpet of a thicket only to discover with disappointment that the envisioned bronze-plumaged prize was but a busy brown thrasher.

Among the birds that habitually inhabit the thickets, this thrasher which averages about 11 inches in total length is a large one. The long covered bill, conspicuously marked breast plumage, and the long tail are excellent identification characteristics.

In Florida the brown thrasher is quite common as a resident in the northern half of the state and in the more southerly portions as a winter visitor. Thickets and woodlands comprise its usual habitat. It is something of a mimic but is not nearly as accomplished in this regard as is the related mockingbird.

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From March until July is the period of brown thrasher nesting activity in Florida. Four or five pale blue eggs, evenly speckled with fine brown dots, comprise the usual clutch. Two broods a season seems to be the rule. The nest itself is a rather bulky collection of twigs, leaves, and such vegetable material frequently placed in low shrubby trees or bushes. The nest, and its locale, is similar to that of the mockingbird.

Acorns are among the important vegetable foods eaten. Approximately one third of the diet is made up of animal material, mainly insects of various sorts.

Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*.

The catbird shares with various members of its family the ability to imitate the songs of other birds as well as a variety of other sounds encountered in its environment. A cat-like mewing scold is the usual call. This sound is, of course, the basis for the well chosen common name of the species.

Identification of the catbird is a relatively simple matter for it is the only species thus marked; uniformly gray body, brown under-tail coverts, and black cap. In body length it averages about nine inches.

The catbird nests in the central and northern part of the state but apparently not in any great numbers. It is fairly common during the winter.

As could be expected of a bird that spends much of its time in dense thickets and tangles of vines, the nest is located in shrubbery or low thickety trees making it difficult to find. The structure itself is a bulky, loosely woven collection of twigs, plant stems, and the like. The four to six eggs that make up each of the two annual clutches are blue green in color without markings of any kind.

Berries and wild fruits make up most of the 56 percent vegetable matter eaten by the catbird. Insects make up the remaining 44 percent of the year round diet.

Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*.

With a total length averaging 8 inches, this is the largest of the Florida thrushes of the genus *Hylocichla*. Its plumage pattern is distinctive with large round dark spots on sides and flanks as well as on the underparts.

As a nester, the wood thrush has been recorded only from the northern portion of the state. At other seasons it may be seen elsewhere either as a wintering species or in migration.

The nest is commonly located from a few feet above ground to as much as 12 feet up in a small shrubby tree or heavy thicket. The structure consists of stems, twigs, and leaves cemented to an inner cup formed of mud which is lined with soft rootlets. The eggs usually number 4 and are greenish blue without markings.

As its common name indicates, this is a bird of the woodlands. Streamside thickets are among the most likely places to encounter the wood thrush. It is sometimes found in residential areas where shade trees and shrubbery create conditions to its liking.

Insects are an important source of food to the wood thrush making up well over half of the diet. Mulberries, elderberries, and other fruits are also eaten in quantity.

Robin, *Turdus migratorius*.

The "splitters" among the scientific bird watchers separate the rob-

ins of Florida into two forms, the Eastern robin (*T. m. migratorius*) and the Southern robin (*T. m. ach-rusterus*). The latter is claimed to be very similar to the Eastern robin but smaller in average size and paler in plumage coloration. Since the subspecies cannot be separately identified in the field, both forms are here considered as one.

The robin is actually a thrush. It is but distantly related to the European robin for which early settlers from across the sea mistook it. The bird is one of the most widely known of all North American species and as such hardly needs description here.

Essentially a wintering bird this far south, there have been in recent years a very limited number of reports of nesting activities of the robin in Florida. These records are thus far confined to the western "Pan-handle."

Although considered an abundant winter resident of the Sunshine State, the numbers of robins observed here varies rather dramatically from year to year.

Wild fruits and berries in considerable variety make up nearly sixty percent of the robin's food. Cabbage palm, camphor, dogwood, mangrove, gallberry and Chinaberry are important sources for Florida robins. The animal matter eaten by the species consists of various insects, chiefly beetles, grasshoppers, and caterpillars.

Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*.

The bluebird represents another species which the "splitters" have worked over, insisting that there is properly an Eastern bluebird and a Florida bluebird. The chief difference between the two appears to be a somewhat larger bill of the so-called Florida form. Again, since there is no easily applied field difference, we lump them into one group.

The bright blue upper parts and the reddish-brown and white underportions mark the male bird of this widely known and recognized species. The female though more sub-



dued in coloration is nonetheless a handsome bird. The bright blue coloration is confined to her wings and tail. The underparts are a duller brown than that of the male.

The bluebird is found throughout the state at least as far south as Royal Palm Park. Natural tree cavities, woodpecker holes in snags, live trees, or fence posts, and bird boxes erected either for them or for other birds are among the nesting sites favored. The bluebird lays its 4 to 6 pale blue and unmarked eggs in a cup of grasses and stems it carries to the chosen site. Two broods are commonly raised during a season. March through June sees the height of the breeding activity in the state.

Animal matter, essentially insects of various sorts, make up a high percentage of the bluebird's diet, roughly some 68 to 70 percent. The vegetable food is made up mainly of wild fruits and berries, bayberries, pokeberries, blackberries, blueberries, sumac, poison ivy, and dogwood being among the species commonly providing food. ●

MUSIC OF THE HOUNDS

(Continued from Page 13)

persistent working in any of the above classes, and are based primarily on the dog's condition at the end of a day's hunt.

These are the merits; but a hound can "earn" demerits, too. According to the official rule book—as rigid as a Code of Laws—a hound that fails to work fairly on a trail, by action or note, or that "runs cunning" to get an advantage will lose points. A cardinal sin of fox hounds is "loafing," or not showing inclination to hunt. This is basis for eliminating the dog from the competition.

Likewise, "babbling," — giving false tongue to the extent of interfering with the chase — is cause for elimination. Persistent rabbit running or chasing of stock is termed "interfering," another cardinal sin. However, hounds on the trail of a deer are given a second chance by

being allowed to resume the hunt for foxes without loss of points.

At 11 a.m., the Master of the Hunt blows the horn to end the day's hunt. All people in the field bring in whatever dogs they happen to see, and these are placed in a common pen back at hunt headquarters. A plane operated by the Game and Fish Commission helps locate wandering dogs, relaying their position by radio to the Master of the Hunt. Owners later pick up their hounds from the common pen. In nine years of Annual Hunts at St. Theresa, no hounds have ever been lost — a remarkable record.

Meanwhile, the Master of the Hunt and the judges privately convene to decide on each dog's score for the day. Only the judges, however, do the actual scoring; the Master of the Hunt acts only as recorder. Then the daily scores are posted, along with the numbers of eliminated dogs, for the sportsmen to see and to beam or frown over according to their luck.

The second and third day's hunts are much like the first, except that less time is allowed each successive day after casting before scoring is begun. And, of course, there are fewer dogs in the competition each day, since eliminated dogs are not allowed to run. Daily scores are totalled, and the night of the last hunt, Thursday, is the occasion for presenting awards to the winning hounds.

It should be clear by now that the big object of "fox hunting" is not to see how many fox pelts you can take home to the wife. "Fox hunting" is really a show of dogs, with its chief thrill in seeing the hounds work and listening to that unforgettable music of the hounds. If, of course, the hounds catch up with a fox, it's too bad for the fox — and some 75 were caught last year, with 25-30 being treed. (Our Florida species, the Gray Fox, is a good one for taking to the trees, in contrast with the Red Fox found to the north.)

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**YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE
AND PROTECT THE
WILDLIFE OF FLORIDA'S
BEAUTIFUL OUTDOORS**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
OR WANT INFORMATION
ABOUT THE OUTDOORS
— WRITE OR VISIT YOUR
NEAREST GAME AND FRESH
WATER FISH COMMISSION
OFFICE — IN TALLAHASSEE,
PANAMA CITY, LAKELAND,
LAKE CITY, OCALA,
OR OKEECHOBEE

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The other big attraction of the fox hunt include the warm fellowship with outdoorsmen and dog lovers, the excitement of camp, the "dog talk," the bench show — in short, the general atmosphere of camaraderie.

With a wide-open invitation to all sportsmen to join in on the excitement, several scores of visitors are expected at the big fox hunt. It's a family affair, for the Fox Hunters bring along their wives and kids. So you might as well drive up to Apalachicola for the doin's, too!

If you do come, you may increase your fun by picking your own winner at the Bench Show. Here are some of the bench standards for Walker and July hounds along with the scale for scoring, as culled from the National Fox Hunters Association rule book:

First of all, hounds in hard running condition are given preference over dogs that are "soft."

HEAD.—The skull should be fairly long, slightly domed at the lower back portion, and the cranium should be broad and full. Ears should be low and long, almost (but not quite) reaching the tip of the nose when drawn out; they should be fairly broad and the dog should not

be able to erect them to any degree; they should sit close to the head with the forward edge slightly toward the cheek, and be rounded at the tip.

The eyes should be large, well set apart, with a gentle expression; color of the eyes is unimportant. The muzzle should be fairly long, straight and square cut. Counting against the dog are a flat skull, narrow across the top; or one which is too domed; sharp terrier-like eyes; long, protruding muzzle; short or undershot mouth; short ears, set high. In scoring give up to a maximum of 5 points each for skull, ears, eyes and muzzle, to a total of 20.

BODY.—Neck should rise free and light from the shoulders, strong, of medium length; throat should be free from folds of skin. A thick, short neck and presence of dewlap or folds are defects. Shoulders should be sloping, muscular, "conveying the idea of freedom of action with activity and strength." Chest should be deep, but not narrower in proportion to depth; and "well-sprung" ribs. Back should be moderately long and muscular, with loins broad and somewhat arched. Give a maximum of 5 points for neck, 15 for chest and shoulders, 15 for back, loins and ribs, to a total of 35 points.

"RUNNING GEAR. — Forelegs should be straight, pasterns short and straight; feet fox-like, pad full and hard, toes well arched. Legs out at elbow, knees buckled forward or bent backwards, legs crooked, feet long, open or spreading are all examples of defects. Hips and thighs should be strong and muscled; stifles strong and well down; hocks firm, symmetrical and slightly bent; feet close and firm. "Cow hocks" or straight hocks, lack of muscle and propelling power, and open feet are defects. Give up to 10 points for forelegs, thighs and hind legs, 15 for feet, to a total of 25.

COAT AND TAIL. — A hard hound coat of medium length, not short or thin, or soft. Tail set moderately high, well-developed, good carriage, with slight curve and good brush. A long tail, improperly curved, without brush, are defects. Allow a maximum of 5 points for coat, 5 for tail, to total 10.

Color of coat is unimportant. Males should not be under 22 or over 25 inches and females under 21 to over 24 inches measured across back at point of withers. A perfect score would be 100 — not often seen!

The date is set, the fun scheduled, the invitations out and you are invited. See you at the Fox Hunt! ●

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

(Continued from Page 5)

their minds, to retain and maintain their organizational identity, rather than work together, thus giving assurance to our children and generations that follow, that their heritage of good soil, clean water, green forests, and sufficient wildlife, will be managed and held in trust until that day when it shall be their's to take over and carry on?

WHY is there so much bickering and pouting as to who is going to be the chairman of this committee, or the president of organization, or who is going to get the credit and recognition for whatever may be involved? **WHY** are there so many "sportsmen" who are not willing

to pay an annual membership fee of but a couple of dollars to their local sportsmen's club, and in the



"Sure I'm enjoying this, Herb. What woman would like to be at home in front of a comfortable fireplace when she can be setting out here catching pneumonia?"

meantime and at the same time turn right around and "throw away" hundreds of times that amount.

Believe me, unless we have the courage to answer these questions and to do something about it, this will surely be the basis of an indictment against us by the generations that will follow.

This is not the majority picture, but nevertheless are truths which do exist to such a degree that there is insufficient expression from the conservation-public to defeat a land grab of heretofore public administered submerged areas and reefs in the Keys, which was maintained by the Park Service for the benefit and enjoyment of the public . . . and not just today, but forever.

It is true to such an extent that efforts, despite the tireless opposition of such men as Dr. H. R. Wilber, John Storer and a few others, to abolish the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, one of the Nation's finest such agencies, has been successful to the extent that the Commission's future, and I might add, Florida's resource and recrea-

tion future, will be determined at the polls in the 1960 general election. You can bet that the masterminds behind this whing-ding are counting on existing apathy to resolve this issue, which will determine the future of the Commission, in their favor. However, the brave men who are working for you and administering to the best of their

ability, Florida's resources so as to provide and assure maximum benefit for all, and who are frequently underpaid and overly abused, are counting on the spirit of conservation coming out of its cocoon, and experiencing a spiritual re-birth as it did in 1941 and 1942. It is time to take inventory and **count our blessings.** ●

BALANCE WHEEL

(Continued from Page 9)

successful results. Special thanks too for the services of two counselors furnished by the Society to aid us in this most worthy cause.

Miss Evelyn Dugger, R.N., our nurse this year at camp assisted in the medication and treatment. Our

thanks go to her as well.

So you see we had many types of programs that were carried on through the summer months. There are always definite challenges to accept.

This month the State Adult Advisory Committee convenes in Tampa for a quarterly meeting. It will be

their third conference. The committee has been created to council and recommend planning and programs to its Youth Conservation Corps. Herb Mayhew is chairman. The quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Youth League will also have their meeting at the same time. ●

CAT FISHING—RIVER STYLE

(Continued from Page 27)

stead, he will swim slowly back and forth in a limited area, filling his belly. If you haven't got a bite in one particular spot within fifteen minutes, then try moving your bait to a new location until you discover where the cats are. Then stick with that spot until the cats quit biting. I've caught as many as twenty in one area no bigger than a tractor tire."

A good time for cat fishing is just after a rise when a river is murky and bank full of water. The rains wash food into the river and the cats are feasting. But once the waters subside, there likely will be a period of slow activity. The cats will be stuffed.

We fished a few minutes after 10 o'clock before calling it quits. Tom apologized because we'd caught only eighteen fish. "We usually do much better," he said, "but today the river is a little low. Last weekend Irene and I got twenty-two nice ones in a little more than two hours of fishing."

I told Tom he didn't have to apologize. In my book eighteen fish is a pretty country fair catch.

That night the Chapmans invited me over for a royal treat. They served catfish fillets fried crisp and

brown in a deep iron skillet singing with lard and bacon grease.

"Cat fishing might not have the glamour and fast action of bass fishing, but it certainly has its rewards," Tom said, spearing another slab of golden meat off the platter. "I've

caught practically every fresh-water fish Florida has to offer and the cat still ranks among the top in my estimation."

After taking another chomp of the succulent fillet on my plate, I was inclined to agree. ●



MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 11)

gases and digesting all kinds of lubricated and rough-surfaced lead .22 slugs.

Another personally-owned outstanding performer was a Remington Model 12C, octagon-barrel, slide-action, .22 purchased about the time non-corrosive priming hit the market. This rifle was shot very hard for years, sold to another shooter who also used it hard, found its way back to its original owner for additional service and finally wound up with a new user. For sentimental reasons, this Gun Editor would pay three times the rifle's cost, just to have it back! In all probability, replacement of the barrel and minor parts would make it function like new.

Only twice during his long association with guns has this writer ever seen a shotgun that has been worn out by firing. In both instances, the guns were owned by professional trapshooters.

Usually, investigation will show that, in addition to hard use, rust has been permitted to simultaneously attack the gun barrel inside or outside or both. These cannot be classed as authentic cases of "wearing out from hard use".

Rust, by far, accounts for the short useful life period that is the undeserved fate of many fine guns. Even when a gun exterior and bore reflect obvious care, rust may be insidiously at work on inner parts, especially on small springs and in remote areas impossible to care for externally. Since rust represents an oxidation of the metal itself, removing it means removing some of the metal, too. In many cases, affected parts can be replaced; in others, damage is irreparable.

Needless, too ambitious use of a cleaning rod can be harder on a gun barrel than shooting—wear at muzzle and breech being critical points. Modern, non-corrosive ammunition has greatly reduced the necessity

for frequent cleaning. When cleaning is necessary, guns should preferably be cleaned from the breech end. Cleaning patches that are not stopped by one's fingers at muzzle end should be pushed on through and removed rather than drawn back and allowed to re-size at the muzzle.

Consulting a technical file he compiled almost thirty years ago, this Gun Editor wishes to cite the case of a Remington Model 24 autoloading rifle chambered for the .22 short cartridge.

Using only .22 short Kleanbore-brand lubricated lead bullets, the factory fired the equivalent of three miles of hot lead through this test rifle. It was not cleaned until firing had reached a total of 285,000 shots. At that stage the 19-inch barrel was cleaned and examined and the rifle turned over to accuracy testers, who mounted a scope sight on it and test-fired it from bench rest. The rifle performed like a new one.

At the 396,100 shot testing stage, when the test was discontinued, measured bore diameter was just about the same as it was at the 285,000 shot mark, with accuracy correspondingly good. At 25 yards, five ten-shot groups averaged .94 extreme spread.

Mechanically, the little rifle required the following replacements in its breech mechanism; 3 new trigger plates—the first lasted about 100,000 rounds, the second 200,000, and the third, 20,000; 1 new firing pin after 355,880 shots; 1 new sear and sear pin after 292,280 rounds; 1 recoil spring plug; 1 breech block after 364,000, and 1 new cartridge stop after 287,000 rounds.

With highly competitive gun manufacturers constantly striving to build even greater endurance into their wares, this Gun Editor does not believe his Jacksonville reader—or you—will have to worry about getting his money's worth. Old guns seldom wear out—they just rust away! ●

MOURNING DOVE

(Continued from Page 25)

of regulation as zoning, and forbade it. In that year, the Federal Service allowed only the choice of a continuous season, or a splitting of dates on a statewide basis.

Earlier, in 1949, ten southeastern states began a cooperative dove study. During the study in Florida, it became evident that hunters in West Florida (Franklin County) had reason for appealing for an October shoot. During approximately thirty days centering in October, tremendous concentrations of doves appear briefly in Franklin County; the only time sufficient numbers appeared to warrant hunting. Intensive banding activities showed further that an appreciable percentage of these flocks moved rapidly to the southern part of the state, especially to Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties.

In 1952, since the Federal Service had reduced the number of hunting days for Florida to thirty, and would not permit zoned hunting, in order fairly to allow an equal chance of hunting to all areas of the state, the Game Commission had no alternative but to set a split season (15 days in October, 15 days during the regular game season). With dove hunting opened statewide during October, it was found that other counties also, such as Wakulla, Leon, Gilchrist, Levy, Hillsborough, Manatee, Jackson, (etc.) had excellent dove shooting available. Thus the early statewide dove season results in a harvest of from a quarter to a half million of doves, a large percentage of which probably would be dead from natural causes and not available to the hunter at the time the traditional regular season opened.

An early season on doves frequently brings objections from widely diverse sources. Florida hunters have voiced two primary objections to the October season: 1. That the birds are too small. At present time, bag limits are so small that the primary incentive for dove

hunting is the sport afforded, not the search for meat. Actually, the size of the bird is determined by food available as much as by age. Banding station operators frequently have the experience of taking birds consecutively from the same trap and finding them to be the identical age according to juvenile plumage remaining, yet find them to be greatly different in size.

2. Florida hunters object that other game is killed illegally as a result of October dove shooting. To a certain point, this is true; game will be

killed out of season, but this had been done before an early dove season was initiated and most likely will be a problem until the violators have been educated or apprehended. Since the initiation of the early dove season, Florida has enjoyed good hunting of other species during the regular season, so this objection is not as valid as thought to be.

To satisfy dove hunters on a statewide basis, and to harvest doves wisely from a game management standpoint, hunters should consider a statewide split season starting dur-

ing the first half of October, the second half starting in late November or early December. However, the most desirable alternative to work toward is a continuous statewide season. The opening date should start October 15 and run into the regular season, taking advantage of all days allowed; or a sixty day season, October 15 to December 15. This would be least confusing to the hunter, allowing him more liberty in choice of time spent hunting, easier to enforce and most satisfactory from the management standpoint. ●

FISHING

(Continued from Page 7)

necessary, fancy gadgets small boat designers persist in producing.

What makes the front end of small boats, untouchable? Take a look at the stern of these same boats. Reinforced transoms have made possible power plants unheard of just a few years ago. Self-bailing motor wells have revolutionized our thinking about small, outboard-powered boat usage. Drain holes thru the transom at deck level have made most bailing unnecessary. New hull designs, widened and flattened at the transom, now support motor weight unthought of a few years ago and do the job with little, if any, loss of efficiency.

In fact, most of the improvements in small boats are in rear end design. The front ends of our small boats are crying out for thoughtful attention. Convertible decks would be a start in the right direction.

Floatation

While I'm at it, I'll stick my neck out on the subject of floatation in these same small boats. I don't think any of them have enough of it, and I don't think what little they do have is in the proper places. I think building floatation material into the bottoms of small boats is a mistake. Not only does this type present maintenance difficulties, but floatation placed low in a boat tends to make the boat flip over, bottom side up, if filled with water. This is a dangerous

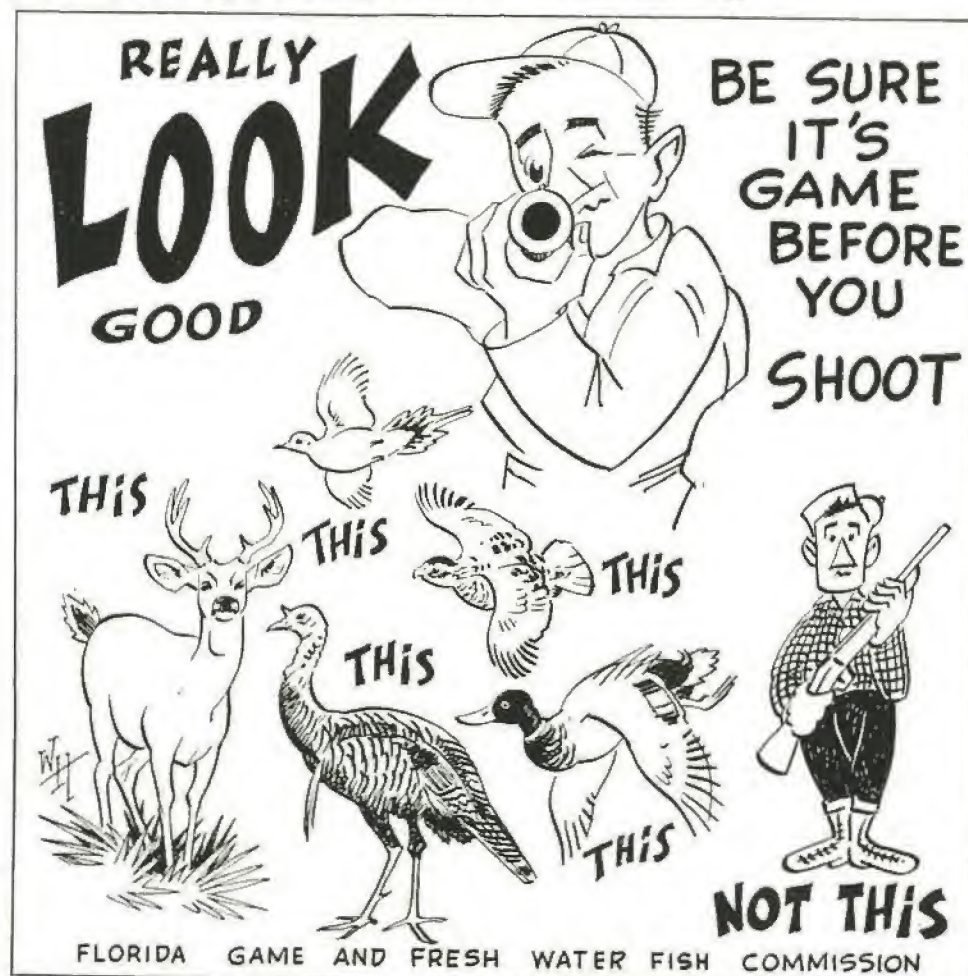
trait that could cost you your life.

Most small boats have a large amount of unused space that would be perfect for floatation material. This is the area under the gunwales inside the boat in the curve of the hull. Floatation thus installed would be properly placed and take up space now going to waste except for control cables, and this problem would present few difficulties.

This under-the-gunwales floatation would work particularly well on

glass and plywood boats that usually have a gunwale three to four inches wide. Wooden boats need floatation in spite of the floating qualities of their structural parts, considering the weight of motors and other equipment.

So—there you have my own "Why Don't They" bit. How about you? Do you have any suggestions you think would point the way to needed new items or could improve the old ones? ●



BUCKS AND BOWS

(Continued from Page 23)

sorts of bow sights, arrow rests, arrow holders and specialized tackle to intrigue and keep initial interest from flagging!

Besides special arrows for efficient hunting of four-legged predators and rough fish species, now available are "shotgun" arrows that release either a shower of small darts or a pattern of fine shot. Known to bowmen as flu-flu arrows, they combine short flight with timely release of farther traveling smaller missiles. Flu-flu arrows are popular and practical for walk-'em-up quail shooting and pheasant shooting. When birds get up ahead of the bow, the archer has to shoot fast. Frequent practice on shotgun class clay pigeons thrown from a handtrap will help perfect the right technique.

For the bowhunter who has tried and tried, yet who has been unable to hit a deer with that all-important first shot, there is now new hope. A new repeating bow enables him to fire three separate arrows at an animal while it is covering 75 feet of ground on a get-away run. The weapon, with its multiple-shot arrow feature and a complement of rifle-like sights, has already attracted national interest after proven performance on deer and bear for its inventor, previously unsuccessful bowhunter Bert E. Frederickson.

The rising tide of public interest in archery is being reflected in the number of currently available books and magazines devoted exclusively to the subject. Most logical libraries now have several technical or semi-technical guidebooks for novice and expert alike.

Among the group of special magazines, *THE ARCHER'S MAGAZINE*, published in Norristown, Pennsylvania; *ARCHERY*, Palm Springs, California, and *THE NATIONAL BOWHUNTER*, Milton, Wisconsin, are three currently popular monthlies.

Editor John W. ("Andy") Anderson, *THE ARCHER'S MAGAZINE*,

P. O. Box 832, Norristown, Penna.—a friend of this author—says he will be glad to send a free copy of his publication to any reader of *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* requesting its mailing. Write him direct. Review of a sample copy will give the beginner of a great deal of interesting and valuable information about bowhunting tackle and techniques.

Meanwhile, seek out and team up with an already active Florida bowhunter. A letter to Bernie Wright, president of the Florida Archery Association, Box 516, Ruskin, will bring you a list of organized local clubs throughout the state and the names of persons living near you who can help you get started. Good coaching by an experienced, interested bowman will help you immensely.

This year, Florida's special bowhunting season will begin with a nine day period hunt at Ocala, and include a sixteen day hunt at Eglin A.F.B.

Whether you hunt along or with a companion, plan on hunting from a blind during the early morning and late afternoon hours, when game is apt to be on the move.

Pick your stand so you can command the most likely routes of approach. If you cannot conceal yourself within encircling cover, then stand in front of a bush, not behind it.

Make a determined effort to keep still! Keep hand motions to a minimum, and firmly resist the impulse to move to another spot.

Change over to slow-stalking during the midday hours when game is most likely to be taking a siesta. Move very slowly and stop often to test wind direction and study brush and vegetation ahead and around you. In order to be successful in this type of hunting, you must invariably locate the game before it

sees you. Deer and other animals apparently do not always identify motionless objects, but are extremely quick to detect movement and wind-borne scent.

Because you must necessarily be close to your game to consistently score killing hits, wind direction must always be considered. A six inch length of fine thread tied to the top of the bow will serve as a wind indicator.

Most of the successful bowhunters firmly believe in the value of camouflage in achieving the close stalking necessary in the hunting of wary game, especially deer. Without it, they consider their chances poor for getting within close shooting range. They not only wear camouflage clothing, but take care to also camouflage faces, hands and tackle. Sunlight-reflecting watch bands and bright belt buckles are taboo, as are vivid and strongly contrasting colors. In some instances, even arrows are given camouflage paint treatment, and "buck lure" used to minimize human scent. (Camouflage Mfg. Company, 1287 West Adams Street, Jacksonville, specializes in most of the camouflage needs of bowhunters.)

Arrows are also carefully kept separated, to prevent rattling a warning of the hunter's approach.

Footgear is carefully selected for soft, silent tread. Many experts wear rubber-soled tennis shoes — an excellent choice if you can remember to maintain a constant lookout for snakes as well as game.

Where a ready-made camouflage bowstock is not selected, bows can be painted or taped to kill both outline and glare.

This Fall more Florida archers are expected to be hunting deer than ever before; those who have already tried the sport says there's no hunting like it.

During the coming archery season woodland Florida is going to be a gigantic merry-go-round of bucks and bows; that's for sure. The prevailing hope is that there will be as many bucks in evidence as bows! ●

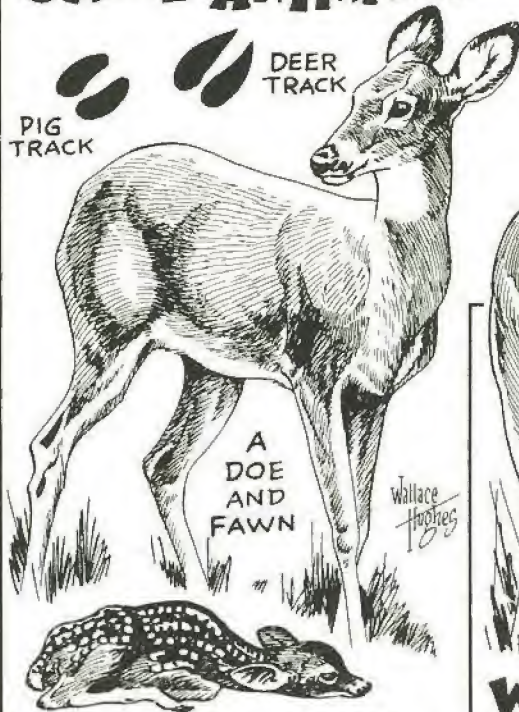
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HUNTING SEASON ISSUE

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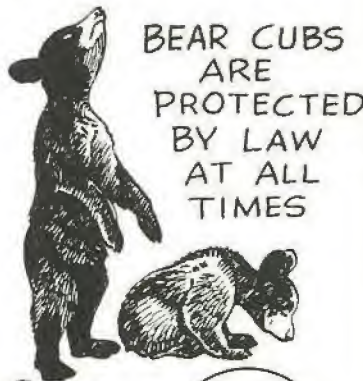
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